

# Seirei Gensouki - Side Stories

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# Celia Side Story 1

# Part 1

Year 996 of Sacred Calendar. When Rio was still studying in Royal institute — 3 days before Rio's participation in the field training and escape from Bertram kingdom to save his life.

Rio was visiting Celia's laboratory. When he's in the middle of preparing the tea——

"Sensei, you're gathering quite an amount of letters ..... Did someone visit you yesterday? "

Rio's pointing out with his look at the mountain of letters that was gathering in the corner of the room.

"U-Uhn. They're piling up huh ....."

Celia nods in a somewhat awkward manner.

"Could it be that you've actually failed to notice it. You shouldn't leave it alone right, If you want a consultation I'll give it as much as you want"

Rio asks timidly as he looks at Celia's complexion.

"No, it's not about that, but. Uhm, how should I say this, all of this letters are from my dear father"

Celia's telling the sender of the letters in a strangely evasive manner.

"Ah, I see..... Well then, I shouldn't pry too deeply in this matter right. My apologies for asking something strange"

Rio's reading the atmosphere and immediately withdraws the previous offer. But——、

"Ah, Uuhn. How should I put it, actually there's so much things I want Rio to hear, do you ..... want to hear it? "

Celia's timidly applying a consultation with Rio.

"Yeah, no problem ....."

Rio stared at Celia's face. Though it doesn't mean that she's particularly pale,

she somehow looks listless today and he can't feel her usual vigor.

"You see, I didn't read all of those letters but, I think the content of those mountain of letters is regarding marriage interviews ..... maybe"

Celia's suddenly holding nothing back to the subject of consultation.

"Marriage interview ..... I see, so it really is about that"

Someway or another, Rio had guessed everything. And then, his lips unintentionally relaxed.

"Aah, you just laughed. You laughed at me right? "

Celia's launching a protest to Rio with a blushed face.

"I'm not laughing. I mean since it's sensei, even if that topic is the topic, you'll become too lazy to correspond with it since you're too busy with your research right. That's why your father's worried and sends a lot of letters"

Maybe because Rio's explaining the main point clearly, he told her about the sequence of events that he already expected.

Though the currently 17 years old Celia is at the marriageable age as a noble, the talk about marriage comes occasionally, she declares that she won't be marrying for the time being. It seems that she's being called so many times from her house since a long time ago, it seems the situation is extending until now.

"U-Uhn. Yeah, you're right....."

Celia's face is getting even redder as she's hanging her head down in shame.

"And then, how long has it been since you weren't replying? "

Rio didn't blame Celia any further, and asks a question as if trying to change the topic.

"Uhm, several months ago....."

"Several months huh. Though there's an unusual amount letters coming....."

Rio said that as he's looking at the mountain of letters.

If you are comparing the normal means of communication in this world by

means of letter, even if the other party is originally her own family, the period called several months isn't seen as a problem for not even once getting in touch with someone who's your fellow in some distant place.

Rather, it might be strange for the letter from the very same person to reach the amount of small mountain in just several months. It might be just how important Celia is.

"Dear father is just too overprotective. Though he says that marriage is an important matter..... He keeps introducing me to a good guy rather than letting me being wooed by some stranger"

Celia's sighing as she's hanging her head.

"Ahaha, he's truly a doting father isn't he"

"Geez, it's not something funny but....."

Celia pouted to Rio who's laughing delightfully.

"I'm sorry. How about thinking about sensei's current situation, what do you want to do "

Rio's apologizing while smiling wryly and decided to make sure of Celia's feelings for the time being. Even if he's going to give advice, he's thinking of checking the real intention of the person first.

"I've said it before but, I don't want to marry yet"

"I see. You're strong willed aren't you. .... In that case, it seems you don't need to open several of these letters, will you confirm the content for the time being? There's even the possibility that your father might change his mind"

"Yeah. I know about that but, it's because the thing he writes almost seems like similar things..... Won't you read it for me instead, Rio "

Celia's nodding timidly and then made her wish as if looking at Rio's face.

"Uhm, I don't mind but..... Are you sure"

Rio's asking back in consideration for her privacy.

"U-Uhn. I definitely won't show it to another person but, it's okay if it's Rio. You can't carry out the consultation properly if you're not reading it right. Yes,

here....."

And then, after receiving the letters from Celia's hand——、

"Well, excuse me then"

Rio opened the letter politely with his hand. From the date, it was written a while ago but, written in there is an extremely long composition lining up neatly with superb penmanship.

After digesting it, from the so called long and lonely flowing lines, it was written that he's worried whether or not Celia have a undesired love, occasionally wishing that she'll come home, the main subject whether she already considering to marry soon was jotted down in it. And, as the candidate of the marriage, there's even the short detail of the person a famous youth of famed house.

".....How is it"

Rio's confirming the matter as he moved his line of sight after he finished reading the letter and then, Celia's timidly asked to him.

"The sentence written in it as if speaking to sensei isn't it. For the candidate of the formal marriage interview, it's written several name of nobles in here and there which he can trust whether their personality or their social standing"

".....For example"

"The second son of duke Fontine house, the eldest son of earl Barry house, and the second of earl Albert house. The second son of earl Albert house age is closer to sensei, didn't you two already meet in your childhood"

Well even if he says that their age is closer, their age separated by nearly 10 years.

"I know that but..... I don't think that I want to marry him you know. I don't even see him in that way, couldn't he be seeing me like that too "

Celia's muttering those words with a complicated face.

"U~hn. Those kind of weak arguments might not be enough to persuade your father right. The other party might not really think so, actually trying to meet him will make it clear. In that case, it's easier if sensei is conveying the image of

your ideal man, after not meeting such person, it might be easier to reject the proposal"

Rio told that in a low tone with a pensive look on his face.

"The image-of-my-ideal..... Man"

Celia's muttering as she's trying to recall the image of her ideal man. Like everyone else, she has a maidenly delusion when she reads a love story but, now that he mentioned it, she couldn't even think about her ideal type of man.

"It seems you're not even thinking about that right"

Rio's speaking as he's looking at Celia with a troubled expression.

"D-Don't laugh at it. I'm not a child, I have the image of my ideal man"

Celia's face flushed in the blink of an eyes. Rio felt that she's rather childish in that area but, there's something that better not to be said, so he's not pointing that out.

"There's someone you're interested in right. Will you let me to hear about it "

Rio cheerfully asked regarding the ideal man of Celia.

"Uuuh..... U-Uhm, you know. F-For example....."

"For example"

Rio's looking with a teasing face at Celia who's embarrassed and lost for words. Thereupon, Celia started to say a single line.

"It's someone with a open personality, someone who'll give me a consultation to me when I have some kind of trouble, Next is someone who truly understands all about me, someone who'll drink tea along with me, someone who'll tell a funny story, and won't be troubled by silence sometimes..... someone like that"

Celia's raising her fingers one after another as she's reciting her type with slightly pouting lips. But, maybe because she strangely feels uncomfortable inside as she says those lines, she feels a strong deja vu in the image of the qualified person, so she's tilting her head as she feels something that she can't understand.

"Unexpectedly, The hurdle isn't that high huh. What about something like his appearance, income, or social status"

Rio's amazed as if admiring her while listing the realistic condition which the noble girl wants the most.

"EH? Uhm, nothing special in that area..... I'll earn the money so there's no trouble in living as a noble with the income of my research. In that case, it might be better if he's someone I'm comfortable with, right? "

Celia told him about that with a quiet embarrassed expression in the end while saying it in a low enough voice.

"I see. If we're not putting his social status, sensei's ideal man might be quite a hurdle right. It's quite a hurdle to become a person who loves sensei"

Rio's nodding as if consenting with those words, and smiling gently at her.

"I wonder about that Though I won't say that they're large in number, they're unexpectedly close by if you're looking for them....."

And, though Celia's looking with a expression as if she's not a bit convinced with his words, when she suddenly looks at Rio who sat in front of her——、



## Part 2

Eh, the condition that I just talked about, doesn't that perfectly apply for Rio Her face changed to that of shocked expression as she thought about that. Her body stiffened as it is, she's recalling the condition she spoke just a while ago in her head that started to disordered. That's right, someone with a open personality, someone who'll give me a consultation to me when I have some kind of trouble, Next is someone who truly understands all about me, someone who'll drink tea along with me, someone who'll tell a funny story, and sometimes won't be bothered by silence.

Her doubt change into conviction. Thereupon, Celia face turned red just due to that. But, for Rio who's not aware of her state, he's staring at the still stunned Celia with a somewhat curious face.

"W-Well, that just *"For Example"* you know. J-Just *"For Example"*. Even if that kind of person is unexpectedly close by..... he won't be found if I'm not looking for him isn't it "

Celia added that in hurry. While persuading herself with—— *"Rio was a fatherly-figure, since it's often the case that he's occasionally trying to choose a marriage partner for me like a close family, it's just natural that he's close to my ideal man"*.

"Well, you could say that right"

Maybe because Rio's a blockhead, as expected that he failed to notice Celia's intention in that place as he nods while smiling wryly. Thereupon, Celia's feeling unsatisfied as her feelings become complex——、

"Muu~..... By the way, can I know about the ideal woman of Rio I feel it's unfair that I'm the only one who's embarrassed"

She questioned him with scornful eyes.

"Ahaha, my ideal woman is it"

"Yeah, now tell me about it"

Rio tried to avoid that topic with wry smile but, Celia held her face upfront as she somehow sulked about it. Thus——、

".....Maybe I'm similar to sensei in that area. Someone who I'm comfortable with. Someone whom I can understand and can understand me, a generous person who can respect me and I can respect her"

Rio's telling his ideal image with a somehow distant look in his eyes.

"U~hm, that is so. Rio's also the same with me right. Yeah, I see now"

Celia looks delighted, and yet showed a brief smile as if feeling relieved.

"Well, ideal is ideal, you can say that it's nothing but that, before you know everyone in your surrounding is married, it might be just you who's left behind by everyone right"

"Uh, Please don't send a threat to me..... I can't easily imagine it"

Celia's body started to tremble to Rio who's saying that while smiling wryly.

"It's okay. As long as sensei keeps that feeling in mind, you'll find your marriage partner right away"

".....I wonder about that"

Though Celia's face became gloomier as if feeling anxious——、

"Yeah, it'll be okay if we made a chance to make the nature of sensei is known to the surroundings. Though sensei might hate it, I think it's okay if you summon your courage and shift your focus a bit at the high society of the noble. Even if it's about dress, if you put it on, I know that an approach will come from the men side. That's why there's no need to be impatient for now"

Rio calmly consented to it.

".....Thank you. I'll think about it if Rio says so"

Celia becomes embarrassed acting a bit strange as she nodded with a shy face.

"It's nothing, but well it can't be helped that it'll become a problem that must be solved immediately in the near future"

"Yeah, that is so"

Celia's face was suddenly taken aback when Rio returned to the story.

"just in case, should I read the latest letter. Your father might even change his mind"

Rio's sending a proposal to Celia who's hanging her head crestfallen.

"Uhn..... Yeah. Please"

"Well, excuse me then"

Rio opened a new letter which has the latest date on it. And then, after scanning the content of the letter for a short while——、

".....Sensei, it seems that your father is going to the capital"

He's telling the fact written in the letter.

"EH! "

Celia was startled.

"Since he has some business that requires him to come to the capital, it seems he'll be stopping for a short while at the royal academy. And he'll be discussing the matter about marriage at that time"

"U~h, I see....."

"If we're going by the date of the letter sent, it seems he'll be arriving just at the next week. It might be better to gather your thoughts together if you're going to reject this marriage interview"

Rio's saying that as he's peeping at Celia complexion.

"U-Uhn..... it's thanks to Rio right. I'm glad that he didn't come with a surprise attack. I barely avoided that. Ah, even not coming and not saying to meet immediately..... What should I do "

Though she can escape from the worst situation, Celia started to really become bewildered as if extremely perplexed.

"Though it's different from a excuse, sensei should just gather your thoughts and explain your current situation right As long as I see the content of the letter, I can feel that he really is worrying about sensei from the bottom of his heart. I think he'll readily give his consent as long as you're showing your

resolution. Rather, I think that's the best choice"

Rio's talking gently as if trying to calm Celia's heart.

".....I see. That's so, right. yeah, I'll try to think for a while to not run away. Thank you very much. I won't show such a pathetic figure"

After Celia who can do nothing but being cheered on by a younger boy was nodding as she somehow gathered her thoughts together.

"It's nothing, if you're okay with me please just say so since I'll give you advice. I'll be absent three days later due to field training though"

Rio's shaking his head in denial as he let out a wide smile.

"Ah, that's right. The field training already close by huh. You'll be careful right It won't be that dangerous as long as you're not going to a strange place but....."

"Yeah, I'll take care of myself"

Celia looked at him with a expression of worry when she hears about the field training. But, Rio's consenting with a really calm and collected attitude. Thereupon, maybe because Celia's feeling relieved, she's smiling a gentle smile.

"Well, take care of yourself then. I'll be preparing nice tea leaves"

"yes, I'm looking forward to it"

The two of them look at each other while smiling happily. But, unknown to the current Celia that Rio will be accused with false charge during the field training three days later, and forced to leave Bertram kingdom.

This was an event of such a day.

# Celia Side Story 2

## Part 1

The evening three days later. In the library tower of the Bertram kingdom royal academy, inside Celia's laboratory in the basement floor, after Celia separated from Rio.

Rio had started his own journey towards the far distant Yagumo region. She didn't know when he will be back. She doesn't even know whether he really will be back from such a long distant journey.

After Rio left the room, the door which closed lifelessly suddenly made a sound. Thereupon——、

"I'm sorry, Rio. I can't do anything for you....."

Celia was crying like a broken dam. And then, she muttered Rio's name as if clinging dearly to him. She, who couldn't do anything but watch Rio's back as he left due to false accusations, couldn't stand herself and felt ashamed.

Rio's warmth still remained on Celia's body. Despite feeling really happy, she couldn't help but to feel anxious, miserable and, sad. Her tears spilled non-stop.

And then, when she started wondering how long she's been crying.

.....Crying forever won't change anything

Celia stopped crying and then somehow stood up and moved her body that felt heavy. *Since I know that Rio wants to cry too.* Though it doesn't mean that the sense of losing him will disappear immediately, she can't stand herself acting like a tragic heroine who does nothing but cry endlessly. That's why——、

Because I'll be waiting for you..... Rio. Because I'll always be waiting for your return, forever. That's why, take care of yourself..... [TL : A flag everyone?] [ED: scary yandere talk...]

After that, Celia devoted herself to wishing for Rio's safety all night long.

If she could do nothing but wish for his safety, then she'll do that. Even if everyone else forgets about Rio, she'll never forget him. No matter how long

it'll take, she'll be waiting for his return. That's her vow.



And then, a few days after Rio began his journey. The calm and ordinary days returned to the Bertram royal academy.

The incident that happened a few days ago during the field training seemed to be a lie, even the expressions of the students that participated in the field training were calm.

After school, when Celia walked in the garden of the royal academy to go back to her laboratory, she noticed that students of the same year as Rio were also walking there——、

It seems as if everyone already forgetting about Rio

She felt that way.

Basically, Rio might be just that kind of existence for them. Though she couldn't fully accept it somehow, since she knew the treatment Rio received in the long years he was in the academy, Celia agreed as if resigned to that fact. Thereupon——、

"Now, how's the feeling of receiving a surprise attack from a crowd of demons?"

".....It must be terrifying right"

"The two of you even returned safely"

She heard the shrill voices of the girls from the corner of the garden.

Being lured by those voices, Celia moved her line of sight towards that place. There was the duo of Stead Euguno and Alphonse Rodan who were surrounded by many female students.

"It's because Alphonse-senpai's order came at the best timing you know?"

Stead moved the credit to Alphonse with a proud smile. Thereupon——、

"Well, it's because the dependable Stead-kun was wounded and sabotaged by that low birth. I, who was entrusted to command this troop was at a loss and unable to do anything "

Alphonse said that while looking unsatisfied with it.

Those two..... Are they talking about the event during the field training

Celia knew the truth about the incident from the time she was separated from Rio. Both of them, you could say that they were the culprits who put the false charges upon Rio. Noticing that those two were telling the story which is somehow related to the field training, Celia unintentionally stopped her foot. Thereupon——、

"That low birth"

One of the girl's asked while tilting her head.

"It's Rio, that unknown orphan..... Maybe because that guy was quite confused due to fear, he pushed Stead-kun who had been wounded by the demons. He even made Princess Flora to experience danger to her life"

Alphonse replied with a theatrical gesture while sighing over that event.

"My my, though we heard that princess Flora almost fell from the cliff, don't tell me that was....."

Thus, the girls are quite surprised as they placed their hand on their mouth.

"Yeah, everything started because of that man's thoughtless action. Though I'm innocent in it all, thanks to that event my father severely reprimand me"

Stead's sighing deeply with a grimace upon his face as if being annoyed.

"Hahaha, it's the same for me you know? Good grief, even though being ambushed by crowds of demons is already a misfortune"

Alphonse smiled wryly while soothing Stead.

..... They really say anything they want huh. They just keep doing it since the victim can't refute to them

Celia was quite disgusted by them.

It was completely different story than the one she heard from Rio. Though the part where they were being severely remonstrated by their father might be true, maybe they were just saying as much as they likes as a distraction from that sermon.

But then, the event regarding those two, no, it was dealt in public in the most convenient way for those two houses.

Seeing that the top brass has passed down the judgment with the most convenient scenario for them, which made her slightly uncomfortable just by remembering it, Celia clearly forced herself from declaring an objection. On the contrary, doing that might bring trouble to her house.

Eventually, by then Celia realized just how powerless she was. Thus, even while doing that, Alphonse and Stead kept talking non-stop about their imaginary heroic saga[lol].

"There were around 50 goblins and orcs, right? Nonetheless, it's refreshing when the troops by Alphonse-senpai command one-sidedly trampled them after rearranging their formation "

"Since there's no way we would fall behind if we fight fair and square against the likes of lowly demons. Our miscalculation might have been that ox-headed demon"

"Certainly, it was unexpectedly strong was it not? Everyone coming out safely after the battle against that was a miracle"

Stead is giving his agreement with "uhnuhn" voice to Alphonse's story.

"What kind of demon was it"

"I wonder, it was several meters tall It was a bi-pedal monster with an ox-head. It was muscular and could easily lift a sword made of rock"

"Wow..... How terrible"

When Stead told them that, the bodies of the female students trembled slightly.

"Nevertheless, because we were quite frantic at that time. We tried to somehow fight it. I recall the euphoria, as if we became like the heroes of legend. But, well, we reluctantly decided to withdraw from battle"

"As expected, we chose to withdraw from battle with that timing. It didn't pursue us after that. Our attack succeeded in delivering a critical wound, so that monster didn't go after us."



And so on, Alphonse and Stead were proudly talking about it. Celia rather admired how boldly they beautified their own selves so far.

In reality, except for those two, there was no one else around them who was at that incident, even if they were in this place, since no one held the same position, or high enough to object to those two, Alphonse and Stead completely monopolized the glory.

Maybe because those female students just swallowed their story as is, they were pouring endless praise to the two of them. And then, since their group was becoming heated, it was turned into a vicious circle when looked from Celia POV.

As expected, hearing any more than this is impossible. I should just leav.....  
Hn

Celia couldn't stand it anymore and was about to leave that place while letting out a short sigh. But, she noticed that Flora was standing right on her side. Flora's body trembled as she stared at Alphonse and Stead as if watching them tormented her.

"But, Rio who left in the beginning might be rather lucky right? Since that guy would just become baggage even if he was there"

Stead was saying that while smiling happily. Thereupon, maybe because Flora was steeling herself, she walked slowly towards Alphonse's group.

.....EH

Celia's eyes opened wide. The expression on Flora's face was as if she really was going to say something. Docile if Celia had to say, for a shy person like her, it would be hard for her to scold that group.

Don't tell me.....

Maybe because Flora was about to say something, Celia held a slight expectation in her. Thereupon——、

"Uhm"

Flora called to the group as if summoning her courage.

"This is..... Your highness princess Flora"

They immediately straightened themselves to show their respect to Flora. Though the formal manner to someone above them isn't asked more than necessary for the students in the academy, due to the difference of the noble rank they should naturally show different attitude, is something that had become a tacit understanding.

"May I ask your business"

And then, when Alphonse asked Flora as the representative of the students in that place——、

".....Why are you badmouthing that gentleman\*" TL \* : This might be confusing as you already know who she mean and I can just use "He", but Flora referring him with more polite expression]

Flora asked as if trying to guess their intent.

"That..... Gentleman"

Alphonse and Stead looked at each other and then tilted their head in confusion.

".....It's about Rio-sama"

"AAh....."

When Flora attached "-sama" to Rio's name, Alphonse and Stead didn't feel very satisfied with it. And then——、

"Flora-sama. Please let this humble me say, you're the 2<sup>nd</sup> royal princess, for you to attach "*-sama*" to such a low birth is something that I can't find admirable. It's not something to show to the surroundings"

And so, Alphonse acted theatrically while saying one thing after another, it's not scolding the royalties, he's showing his disapproval to Flora's behavior. But——、

## Part 2

"..... I, your speech which sounds like degrading people behind their back is something that I find rather deplorable"

Flora calmly stated her rebuttal.

"Wha-That is..... In what meaning should it be"

Stead face is stiffening in the thinking that she might criticize him.

"Though I almost fell from the cliff, I was saved by that gentleman. That gentleman has become my benefactor. I came to agree that he became a hindrance in other matters\*" [TL\* : not too sure about this sentence]

".....But, it's because that man can't use magic right? Even if for example he remained in that place, I think that he couldn't do anything against that cow-headed giant"

Maybe due to anger that she met Stead's opinion face-to-face, she then spoke with a somehow irritated tone.

"The one who couldn't do anything in that place at that time, was all of you right? Everyone was at their wit's end, and aren't the lot of you who scrambled to the first line. All while deserting a wounded person"

"T-That is something like a tactical retreat. Though if we felt like it, we should be able to beat that with everyone's power, because fighting while in a wounded state is impossible....."

When Flora casually mentioned the truth, Stead tried to explain with a nervous tone.

"H-Hey, Stead-kun That man might be the one who attracted the attention of the cow-headed monster. Since he has the magic tool loaded with Abiliy Strengthening Magic(Enchant Physical AbilityPhysi)"

Maybe Alphonse felt that it was not a wise choice to confront the 2<sup>nd</sup> royal princess Flora from the front, he soothed the flustered Stead while nonchalantly praising Rio.

But, when it comes to Flora who knows the truth, maybe because she didn't feel that Rio's honor would be restored with just that——、

"..... Let alone attracting its attention, Rio-sama slayed that cow-headed giant"

So she told them that truth. Thereupon, Celia's body trembled as she heard that story while watching the situation.

And yet, contrary to that, Alphonse's group looked bewildered. The reason being——、

"What have you just said? I heard that the cow-headed monster is being dealt by the chivalric order. I heard that it's a personal announcement from his majesty....."

Stead talked with a suspicious expression. That's right, that cow-headed giant—— that minotaur is told that it was subjugated by the chivalric order of the kingdom.

Of course, though Flora appealed to her father, Phillip III, the fact that Rio's the one who slayed that minotaur, unfortunately he couldn't treat that as the truth.

In this context, forecasting that acknowledging the truth and giving merit to Rio was a bad move for the plot to frame him, and then from the fact that the minotaur is not the kind of monster that could be beaten by a single royal academy student, the truth was concealed by judging that the credibility is low even if they spread this kind of story to the surrounding.

That time, seeing that no one but Flora saw the fierce battle between Rio and the minotaur, doing something like twisting the truth by using the relationship of the most influential people of the kingdom wasn't that difficult. But then, Flora whose appeal was ignored of her claims in this few days with reasons such as having a suspicious story, and entering a rebellious age like never before towards her father.

"that's....."

With expression as if going to say something, Flora was at a loss for words.

Despite being the 2<sup>nd</sup> royal princess, it might likely become a problem if she objected the official announcement by the king. Still, even if for example, it did become a problem, her father ignoring Flora's claim is something that she knew would happen.

But then, though there was a part of her who wanted to oppose it, how to make him believe her when she explained it, Flora started to lose her self-confidence.

"It might be the benevolence of the gentle princess Flora, Stead-kun"

Maybe noticing that Flora couldn't talk back to him, Alphonse smiled with a "poof" and whispered to Stead.

"Ah, I see....."

Stead consented with a sneer.

Flora chewed her lips as she was assailed by a helpless feeling.

Thus— —

"You lot, what are you doing Her highness princess Flora's complexion doesn't seem to be good but....."

Celia chose this timing to appear. And then, changed the topic and sent a lifeboat to Flora.

"C-Celia-sensei I-It's nothing, we were just chatting a little....."

Maybe because Stead was flustered by Celia's entrance, his body trembled a little.

"How are you feeling, your highness"

"..... I'm okay. No problem"

Flora firmly shook her head in denial when she heard Celia calling her name in worry.

"In that case, can I borrow a bit of your time I want to have a short chat with your highness"

Celia stared intently at Flora's face and then told her wish.

".....Yeah, I don't mind"

Maybe because Flora had no idea what kind of talk it would be, she just nodded in wonder.

"Well then, this way please~"

"Yes"

Flora walked as after being urged by Celia. And then, Celia turned around to look behind as they were leaving— —、

"Well then, excuse me. You also should return before it becomes too late you know?"

She said the words which she almost forgot to say.

"Y-YES"

Stead replied with a slightly tense tone, thereupon, just like that he looked charmed by Celia's retreating figure. His muttering "So lovely" didn't reach anyone's ears.

And then, during that time——、

"Uhm, Celia-sensei. Where are we going to Just what kind of talk is it..... "

Flora timidly called to Celia who was walking in front of her.

Celia let out a bitter smile hesitating slightly, she stopped her gait and——、

"If possible, will you talk to me in my laboratory regarding the thing about Rio"

So she said while peeking at Flora's complexion.

# Celia Side Story 3

# Part 1

After that, Celia's arrived at her own laboratory while taking along Flora with her.

"Please enter. It's a narrow place though"

"I don't mind, excuse me then....."

After Celia invited her to enter, Flora's passing through the door with a slightly strained face.

"Please feel free to take your seat on the empty chair since I'm going to prepare the tea"

Celia's going to the simple kitchen as she said those words. Thereupon——、

"Thank you very much"

Flora's saying her gratitude while sitting timidly on the chair. And then——、

(So this is how the inside of Celia-sensei laboratory.....)

As she's looking inside with a curious face. Since she didn't have any experience of visiting the laboratory of the lecturers during her life in the royal academy up till now, Flora was embracing a kind of new and strange feeling.

Thanks to Rio being in charge of cleaning till sometime ago, Celia's room became so well and neatly arranged. Because the sense of loss due to Rio who began his journey, in the majority of these few days, Celia's almost unable to concentrate on her research.

Flora's looking inside of the room for a while and then looking at Celia as if to assert the situation——、

(She said to talk about Rio-sama..... Is it about the story from sometime ago? Beside, as I thought, Celia-sensei is very close with Rio-sama isn't she )

While thinking so. Flora recalled that once she saw that Rio and Celia was talking with quite a friendly atmosphere. Though that time was just right after school, maybe because she was able to take a glimpse of Rio's smiling face



which he never shows in the academy, that memory remained strongly in her.

And then, Flora's somehow feeling quite vexed inside——、

"Thank you for waiting"

Celia's coming with the tea. On the tray that she's carrying with both hands was a pot covered with a tea cozy<sup>[1]</sup> and cup. After Celia sits in front of Flora, her expression slightly darkened. And then——、

"My apologies for what I did sometime ago. Though I heard the content of the story, maybe because I'm a bit too absorbed with hearing the story, I ended up slightly missing with the timing to intervene....."

She's apologizing to Flora. Thereupon, Flora's face also darkened and she's gently shaking her head in denial.

"Nope. Since I also suddenly forced my way through their conversation....."

"..... Is it because you couldn't bring yourself to pretend to not hear it?"

Celia's asking with an implicit question. Since it was convenient for her situation.

To be honest, to Celia, she doesn't think that they're the kind of people who'll obediently apologize when being pointed out of their mistake. On the contrary, if she makes a mistake, she fears that Flora's position will be even worsened for making too many mistakes. But——、

"..... I couldn't bring myself to ignore them. I have no reason for making myself to be able to agree with them"

Flora's shaken as if being vexed by it. And then, drooping her head in disappointment.

"Flora-sama has a better opinion about Rio right....."

Celia was smiling a full smile as she's feeling relieved somehow.

"Because he saved my life three times. First is when I was kidnapped 5 years ago, the second is during the field training few days ago....."

"..... If it's okay with you, would you tell me the story during the field training a few days ago? Even Flora-sama must be frustated for keeping it in

your chest"

"..... Is it okay?"

Flora's peeking at Celia's face to guess her intention.

"Yes. I want to hear it. From Flora-sama who was properly seeing that child, your story about Rio..... "

Celia's assenting to her with a gentle smile. Thus, Flora's taking a short breath as if a burden has been taken off from her shoulder. And then, she's slowly starting to tell his story.

About Rio being pushed for baggage carrier during field training, about him refusing her offer to help him carry the luggage, about him who was carrying the luggage alone with a nonchalant face without making a single complain as if he's not carrying anything, and then about him who saved her when she almost fell from the cliff when they're ambushed by flocks of demon.

## Part 2

"..... To me, I will never think that Rio-sama is the one who pushed Stead-kun"

Flora said that after explaining the situation when she almost fell from the cliff.

"Though it's not my place for saying this, I'm in the same opinion as you. I definitely couldn't think that Rio lost his cool with a surprise attack of the demons. Or rather, I think it might be the opposite instead....."

Celia's saying so while joking with a wry smile. Thereupon——、

"T-That is, no matter how you look at it, isn't that making Stead-kun seem pathetic....."

Flora's saying as if trying to protect the pitiful Stead. Though he's not someone who has a personality that you can praise, it seems she's still slightly resisting from bad mouthing him.

"Oh my, I never said that Stead-kun is the one who messed up you know When it comes to that, could it be that Stead-kun appeared this way in Flora-sama eyes? "

So Celia says while showing a impish smile.

"Ah..... G-Geez, sensei is unfair!"

Flora's hanging down her head with flushed cheeks.

"Fufu, I'm glad. You finally can make such a bright face right. ....Please drink the tea since it's just about the right time to drink it. Though the truth is, the tea is delicious if it's brewed by Rio"

When she said that, she's pouring the steam cooked tea to the cup and then presented it to Flora.

"Rio-sama..... Could it be that he was frequently coming to this room? "

Flora's asking with a dumbfounded face.

"Yeah, well. He was accompanying me for tea, helping with my research, doing the cleaning of this room and..... That's secret, okay? "

Celia's saying that while winking at Flora.

"Y-Yes. I won't tell anyone. Even so, uhm..... *As I thought*, Celia-sensei actually has a good relationship with Rio-sama? "

After nodding awkwardly, she's asking with a unwilling face to not ask it.

""*As I thought*" is it? Yeah, well, becoming closer with him is something I'm happy with though....."

Though she's slightly worried with the way Flora said "As i thought", Celia still nodded as if being shy about that fact.

"Yes, Uhm, once, I happened to see Celia-sensei talking as if you're being intimate with Rio-sama....."

"Ah, I see. It's because we didn't seem to be quite close in the academy"

"It's alright. It happened after school when almost no one was left. Beside, though it seems that you're quite close, it's just a normal conversation. It's just that, since Rio-sama's showing such a natural expression, it's somehow remained in my memories....."

So, Flora's explaining the situation when she saw them.

"Ahaha, so that's the reason. Normally he's a child who didn't have too much expression but, don't you know that sometimes he makes an expression befitting of his age you know? "

Celia answered with a smiling face.

".....Yes. So, he should be right"

Flora's nodding with a slightly gloomy face.

(Could it be that Flora-sama wanted to become intimate with Rio?)

Celia thought so while looking at Flora whose head is drooping.

Thereupon——、

"That's something I couldn't see. The truth is, I always wanted to have a conversation with him but, I can do nothing but watch him being isolated in the academy and drifting away from his surrounding like that"

Flora's blaming herself with a ashamed expression.

"You're regretting the fact that you can't do anything for him, right"

".....Yes. Moreover, I'm also jealous with Celia-sensei. That's why I'm trying to summon my courage to talking with him during the field training. Though I was told by onee-sama to not try to make contact with Rio-sama"

"By Christina-sama?..... I see"

## Part 3

Celia nodded with a pensive look on her face And then it comes to her that Christina's order might be on the basis with consideration that *"It's not a good thing for both of them for Flora whose origin is a princess, becoming intimate with Rio, who's an orphan of unknown origin"*.

Even in Celia's case which she has a relationship with Rio as his homeroom teacher, she recalled that there was few times when he received animosity from the students just because he seems slightly intimate when conversing with her in the academy ground. For example if Flora's becoming intimate with Rio, it won't look too good if they're seen by the students in the vicinity.

(Well, Christina-sama's carrying a completely non-interference standing regarding Rio right. It seems she also have some sort of complicated feeling to Rio just like Flora-sama but, I can understand her view when I think about the first time they met<sup>[2]</sup>.....)

Anyway, it's because Christina is a wise girl. Though she's normally making sure to not having the similar common ground except with the students she intimate with, she can make a clear distinction about the being called human. Contrary to her non-interference attitude, she might be trying to be kind to Rio in her own way. When Celia's coming with such analysis——、

"Well then, the time when you're speaking with Rio also became the last of your conversation?"

She asked that to Flora. Though she have heard the general situation from Rio himself, even Celia's completely unknown to the detail. Therefore, she wanted to make sure just how far Flora knows about it.

"No, just a little when I almost fell from the cliff and when we're attacked by the cow-headed giant. But then, it's just him one-sidedly calling my name....."

"Rio should say something else right?"

"That is, he said "I'm sorry" right before he threw me back to the top of the cliff with incredible power. And then, he said to me to run quickly when we're attacked by that cow-headed giant"

"So that was the case....."

Maybe because she can guess Rio's mental state during that time, a gentle smile's forming on Celia's lips. But, in that moment——、

"..... The cow-headed giant is beaten by Rio-sama. I insisted on that opinion as the sole witness. But, dear father and headmaster can't take that as the truth, moreover for them to make the one responsible of this case to Rio-sama is....."

Flora's looking down in vexation while saying that.

"I see. Because of that you couldn't endure the fact that Alphonse-kun and Stead-kun is bad mouthing Rio"

Celia's satisfied that Flora flared at Alphonse and co for a justified reason.

"Yes, that's right..... Is Celia-sensei believing in what I say? "

Flora's asking that while looking at Celia as if begging to her.

"I trust you. I also understand your feeling<sup>[3]</sup>. ..... But, for you to make a thoughtless statement contradicting the well known truth with your standing as a princess is, please forgive me for saying this, in my humble opinion it is a foolish idea"

Celia's bowing deeply and admonished Flora who's making a gloomy face as if being anxious.

"..... Dear father, and onee-sama also said the same thing. That I mustn't say the truth which is contradicting with the official announced truth. Should I not go on claiming with the truth? "

Flora eyes opened slightly wide and showing the expression as if somehow being vexed with the current situation.

"In the human society, the right one will not always evaluated as the right one. No, a correct evaluation might never exist in the first place. When you have a case, there's always infinite possibilities regarding human whether or

not that judgement is correct"

So, Celia's speaking to seemingly anxious Flora in a manner as her teacher.

"Well then, seeing from common point of view, there's a possibility that dear father and onee-sama is right and I'm wrong is it?"

"..... It must be hard for you right. At least, I personally think that Flora-sama is right, this sensibility also a nice thing. .... In addition, don't you think that his majesty and Christina-sama in reality also know that you're speaking the truth you know? "

Celia's answering with a troubled face to Flora who's looking at her with eyes of someone who seemingly lost her self-confidence.

"Is..... That true?"

Flora's looking at her with a dumbfounded face.



## Part 4

"Yes. But, when comparing it with the current internal situation of the country, it's just the safer choice to hold Flora-sama's feeling. Because In regard to political world, the truth is that even if you don't think that it's "right", sometimes there's a matter that you must treat as "right" ..... I think that maybe Christina-sama and your majesty was also troubled in how to explain that to you. And then, Even if Flora-sama can't bring yourself to consent with that fact deep in your heart, aren't you supposed to cover that part? "

"That..... Might be right. Certainly"

After Celia's stating her analysis, Flora's consenting as if she came to understand something.

"Fufu, looking at Flora-sama's appearance, it seems your majesty and Christina-sama isn't making it clear about that situation right"

"..... Yes. The truth is, Uhm, during that time, I'm rebelling against onee-sama and dear father for the first time in my life"

Flora nodded in agreement as if feeling embarassed.

"If that's the case, based on today's situation, it might be a good idea if you're trying to talk to them again after you calm down isn't it. Though changing Rio's situation shouldn't be possible after things going this far, nevertheless if you can't hold back your emotion, I'm ready to become your conversation partner with just the two of us, the weight on Flora-sama's heart might be melting a little you know? "

Celia's telling her as if happy about this development.

"..... I'll try it. But, as expected, I really couldn't change the current situation of having returning a good deed with evil toward Rio-sama right? Maybe I won't be able to do something about the existing news one way or another, with a bit of thinking....."

Flora's giving a firm nod and then timidly asking that question.

"Uhm, I'm also facing similar problem but, I think there's not that many think I can do"

"..... Meaning?"

"I'm believing that child, and then it comes to me that I should wait for his return, forever. And welcome him with a smile on my face once we meet again"

Celia's answering with a ephemeral smile floating on her face.

"..... He'll return, right?"

"Yeah, definitely. I believe that he'll return. Well, though maybe he won't be back with a grandiose entrance"[4]

When Flora's asking that with a anxious tone, Celia answered her and giving a firm nod.

"At that time, he definitely won't show himself in front of me right"

Flora's letting out a dejected smile.

"That's..... How it should be, right?"

Celia dodged to answering her question by glossing it with a smile as she thinks that he'll certainly do so if it's Rio.

"It's okay, you may speak your opinion. It's thanks to Celia-sensei that I at least understood what I must to do. .... Though I might have no qualification for it, I'll be waiting for him too. And then, though he might be unable to forgive me, I think I will keep living without forgetting about my fault to that person"

Flora's shaking her head gently in denial as she calmly tells Celia her intention.

"Flora-sama....."

"I should try to talk with onee-sama and dear father again right. Though it might turn into a quarrel again, I believe that I'm right, moreover, I think I should try to understand dear-father and onee-sama's circumstances as much as I can"

"..... Certainly. In that case, I'll secretly help from behind. Please come to my place at once if you can't bear it no matter what. Since I'll hear your

story if you're okay with me"

Celia showed a wide and gentle smile.

".....Certainly, thank you very much!"

A bright smile bloomed on Flora's face as she's bowing her head.

## Part 5

"Fufu, the tea ended up becoming lukewarm right. If you're okay with it, should I brew new one? "

"Ah, it's okay. Since my throat parched during the conversation. Though After being called childish by onee-sama, I like to drink it when it became lukewarm. Ehehe"

Flora shyly saying that. Thereupon, the sound of a knocker of the door of the room resounded.

"Ara, it seems we have a guest aren't we. Excuse me then. .... Yes, may I ask who is this? "

When Celia's standing from her seat after excusing herself to Flora, she's walking to the door and asking the identity of the person from the other side.

"It's Christina. Uhm, Flora should be coming to this place isn't it? I heard from the gatekeeper soldier that she was walking along with Celia-sensei ten minutes ago"

There on the other side of the door is Flora's sister—— Christina.

"It's princess. I'll open the door now. Please wait a minute. .... Fufu, it seems you received a home calling you know. I will open the door"

After Celia's replying with a loud voice, she's smiling at Flora who sits on her chair behind her. And then, when she opens the door, Christina was standing on that place.

"Onee-sama....."

"Uhm, I came to call you. Since you're later than usual, dear father and dear mother are also worrying about you"

Christina's ending her words with a somewhat awkward expression to Flora who's looking straight into her eyes. Celia who's looking at Christina's behaviour grasped that there's still some effect left due to her quarrel with Flora.

"..... I'm sorry. I became too absorbed in the conversation with Celia-sensei. Could it be that onee-sama's returning here after arriving at the palace?"

Flora meekly apologizes while peeking at Christina's expression.

"..... Yeah, well I must admit"

Christina's timidly admitting it.

"Fufu. You did worry about Flora-sama right. Well then, before it's too late, please be careful on your way back"

Celia's smiling to the awkward conversation of the sisters and then urged them to go back at once. Well, the royal academy is practically next to the royal castle, since there's a communication gate for something like commuting of the royalty etc etc, the thing that they must pay attention is none.

"Thank you very much, Celia-sensei. Thanks to you I feel that the burden on my heart became a bit lighter"

Flora's standing up and then bowed toward Celia.

"Well, please come again anytime"

Celia's gently shaking her head with a smile. Christina was looking at them while guessing what the two of them might be talking about in this place.

"Well then, let's go. Onee-sama"

Flora's saying that as she started to walk slowly toward her.

"..... Yeah, that is so"

Christina's looking at Celia and suddenly bowed at her — —、

"Thank you very much, Celia-sensei. For becoming the conversation partner with Flora"

And saying her gratitude.

"No, I must also say my gratitude for this matter. I could have the privilege of such an enjoyable conversation till I unintentionally forgot about the time"

"In that case, I'm glad for you. Well then, one more time. Thank you very

much for what you did today"

Christina's nodding and then turning around to leave. Celia's looking at them walking along the corridor and then going back to her laboratory. And then——、

"..... I also can't get depressed forever huh. I can't go on like that right"

She's whispering in a low voice. Celia's feeling became slightly lighter after she talked about Rio with Flora. Before she knew, she's become more positive than sometime ago.

But, her face turned slightly dark when she held the tea that already became considerably lukewarm on her lips. Because even if she's using the same tea, the tea made by Rio is far better.

"You'll be back quickly right, that's why I'll wait for your return"

Celia turned slightly sentimental.

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea\\_cosy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea_cosy)

[2] [TL\* : Rio's mistaken as the kidnapper despite the otherways around]

[3] [TL\* : Rio's a great sinner for leaving this two nice woman(?) behind for a manly(?) journey]

[4] [TL : He betraying your expectation!]

# Celia Side Story 4

## Part 1

And then, a few days after Celia's conversation with Flora.

「That's right, father was supposed to come right. I completely forgot about it.....」

Celia, muttered in front of Roland Claire—— her father who is supposed to come visit her laboratory.

「Y-You're so cruel, Celia-chan ! Though it's the first meeting of parent and child after a long time, why did you say that words right in front of me ! ? 」

Roland, contrary to his sharp features in which one can feel ambition and dignity from it, is readily speaking to Celia with a crumbling tone.

「Ah, No. Of course I'm also happy that I can meet my dear father you know ? I just forgot about the purpose of the visit which was written down in the letter」

「KUH, I'm treating it too lightly since it's my own daughter. After bringing her up with familial love, even after living separately, even though I sent that much letter, there's completely no reply at all.....」

After Celia explained her reason, Roland is grasping his fist tightly with vexed expression.

「Rather, It feels like my dignity keeps weakening when that much letter is coming one by one. Moreover, recently, the content is only about marriage, so I don't even feel like opening it」

Celia's muttering dejectedly while letting out a short sigh.

「I mean, I won't give Celia-chan to someone who I don't know and from from doubtful identity ! WRONG, I WON'T, EVEN IF I KNOW HIM ! BUT,

UNFORTUNATELY, VERY UNFORTUNATELY, THE FATE OF A FEMALE NOBLE WHO IS LATE IN GETTING MARRIED IS DISASTROUS」

「My dear father, sometimes you won't hold back with your remarks to the one you're talking to」

When Roland is insisting with his stand, Celia's letting out a freezing smile. Thereupon, Roland's body is trembling due to fear.

「I-I know that since I'm actually seeing it myself you know. Though you're hailed as a beauty before, have you heard how much they're talking behind the back of a noble girl who's growing old yet not married yet. Moreover, there's even those who become mentally unstable. I DON'T WANT CELIA-CHAN TO FEEL THAT WAY ! 」

「Well, that is, I mean I have heard of such story, I certainly can't think of it as another person's problem but.....」

Celia puffs her lips as she says that.

「I'm worried to death you know. Because Celia-chan is a child who often lost the sight of her surrounding when immersing herself in study since long time ago right. Thought that talent which made you graduate as the youngest student in the long history of Bertram kingdom is to be honest, made me proud as your father, it'll become something that cannot be undone if you lost marriage partners in your surrounding when you noticed that you're focusing too much on your research. AAAH, And then, when I recall the face of the sulking Celia-chan, I.....」

Maybe because Roland become too passionate in the middle of his speech, he begun to hold his head with both hand as if feeling anxious.

「AAA, GEEZ ! Your voice is resounding in the corridor. Enter the room first and sit down please. I'll prepare the tea now」

Celia's closed the door in a hurry and then push Roland as if it's troublesome, then made him sat on the chair inside of the room.

「.....fumu. Have you been busy with your research, Celia-chan ? The room seems more disordered than when I came before but, are you employing someone or having a manager ? Please just say it without holding back since I'll



help you as much as I can if you have financial difficulties」

Roland say that after taking a brief look in the interior of the room. Currently, the data and the book have been scattering around in every place in the room. Of course the reason is because Rio, who's keeping the room tidy is gone.

「Yeah. Uhm, I'm a little busy right now..... But, I don't need a manager」

Maybe because Celia's recalled the matter about Rio, she shake her head with somewhat a misty expression.

「..... You don't seem lively. Is there something wrong? 」

Roland's squints his eyes and then asks that question while looking at Celia's face. As expected, maybe because she's her father, or maybe because he's a noble with earl rank, he has excellent observation skills. But——、

「It's nothing..... Maybe I'm just a bit tired」

## Part 2

Celia tried to deceive him somehow by glossing her face with a smile.

「Tired..... That must be it right

Roland's quietly watching Celia while saying so.

「Yeah,ahaha」

Celia is showing a dry smile while staring back at Roland. Though when there's her family she seems to be joking, in reality she's breaking a cold sweat as she feels that her father's sharp intuition knows what she think.

「As I thought, though there was a reliable person who was by your side at time like this, I thought it's good for your mental sanity but.....」

Roland is letting out his worry with a gloomy expression.

「No, marriage is still..... Rather than that, Don't you think that I'm okay with this kind of mental condition right now?」

「Why do you think that way? 」

「That's, since I'm currently busy with my research, I really can't afford myself for other matter. Moreover, I'm currently not in hurry for that yet.....」

Celia's replying while somewhat feeling guilty about it.

「Naturally, I never said to marry immediately you know. But, I just feel that it should be okay for you to at least have a fiance. But, I don't have any intention to forcibly send you to a political marriage for the benefit of the house. I'm fine with whoever Celia wishes to be a partner」

After taking a short breath, Roland said that while shrugging his shoulder. That's quite a blessed situation for a noble girl. Since there's many noble who can't freely choose their betrothal partner.

「..... If it's someone I wished for, so do you mean anyone is okay? 」

Celia's asking while looking at Roland expression.

「Yeah, naturally. It's because I trust Celia-chan. You won't bring a strange

fellow right」

「Do you swear that it's the truth ? 」

「Uhm. .... EH ? D-DON'T TELL ME, YOU ALREADY ! ? YOU ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE ! ? 」

After hearing the confirmation from Celia, Roland is giving a firm nod, and his complexion suddenly paled in the next moment.

「N-No, I really don't mean it that way..... I'm just making sure whether it's okay if the other party is someone I'm wishing for」

Celia's turning her face as if embarrassed while saying so. But, it was truly suspicious when she say that with sublime excited tone and slightly blushing cheeks.

Roland's looking at Celia as if perplexed.

「MUH.....」

「I-It's a little scary dear father. Please don't stare at me with that kind of face」

Celia's stepping back with cramped face to Roland who's suddenly looking at her face from close range.

「KUH, but when I'm imagining whether there's a bad insect who dared to make a move on Celia-chan, this, kind of dark emotion is filling my chest.....」

「Despite insisting me to look for a fiancée, you're just contradicting yourself you know. Muuu」

「..... Fatherly love is a complicated thing」

Roland is letting out a smile which containing his gloomy feeling on his face. And then——、

「But, how is that a problem ? When you have someone you like ? 」

So, he straightened himself and asked again.

「That's why I said..... I-HAVE-NOT, right」

Celia awkwardly waves her face left and right in denial. As for why she needs

a moment to deny is, because for some reason, Rios appearance comes into her mind.

(..... Rio isn't like that)

Celia feels a complicated and desolate feeling in her mind.

## Part 3

「My intuition is telling me that the probability is quite high. But, judging from Celia-chan's reaction.....」

Roland is looking at Celia with doubtful expression and then——、

「D-DON'T TELL ME, YOU'RE IGNORED BY THE MAN WHO YOU LIKE ! ? THAT UNGRATEFUL BRAT, EVEN THOUGH CELIA-CHAN IS THIS CUTE ! 」

Starting to make an uproar in astonishment due to his own imagination.

「HE IS NOT ! It's really nothing like that ! Geez, please calm yourself for a moment ! 」

Celia's shouting at Roland who has a stunned expression.

「..... Really ? When push come to shove, I won't even hesitate to use the secret magic that was passed down in our household」

「The secret magic of our house you say..... Please don't use that kind of super powerful attack magic to target one person」 [TL : This pair of father-daughter is killing my stomach]

「Hahaha, because not even his ash will be left after we use that right」

「Geez.....」

Celia's sighing and then, her lips slightly loosened. Since she know that the thing Roland just said was a joke. Maybe he surely noticed that she's in low spirit. That's why——、

「Honestly speaking..... Since I absolutely have no plan on marriage, I'll be gladly looking on that for a long term. But, I have no intention to marry since I'm currently still busy with my research」

Celia decided to tell him her true feeling without hiding what she feels right now.

「I see. Though I feel that it's better if you find your sweetheart till you're 19 years old..... Well, maybe you want to think about it for a bit more time right ? Since Celia-chan is already 17 years old right」

「.....Yes」

「No need to mind about it with such a gloomy face. How Celia-chan feels right now, think slowly about that feeling, and then I want to hear about it. And then, if I can give a consent to your story, I swear that I won't nag you to get married quickly again」

Roland is smiling gently as he says that.

「Dear father.....」

「That's why. Since I already said my greeting for today, I'll leave for now」

「You're going to leave already ? 」

Celia's asking with perplexed face to Roland who's standing up from his chair.

「Yeah, though I'll be in the capital for a short while, unfortunately I'll be busy with official business. Let's discuss about this matter again slowly after I come to this place again one week later」

Roland's saying so while smiling gently at Celia and then turning his heel. Though he's walking toward the door just like that, he stopped before leaving the room and then looking back at her——、

「Will you give me a farewell hug before I leave, Celia-chan ? 」

He said so with a smiling expression while spreading his hand.

「I WON'T ! 」

Celia's shaking her head embarrassingly.

「KUH, Though you still give me hugs when you became a lecturer of the academy.....」

「It's because I'm already 17 years old, I already became an adult」

「Fuu, so that is. Well stay lively then. Celia-chan. Let's meet one week later」

Now Roland leaves the room after letting out a slightly lonely smile.

「.....Marriage huh」

Celia muttered those words with a painful face even while looking at her fathers back.



And then, five days after Celia met her father.

A new guest has come to visit Celia in her room again. The name of that person is Aria Governess—— One of the few female friend of Celia who have the same age as her. But, she couldn't meet her in this few years due to a certain situation.

## Part 4

(This place is Celia's room huh. Though I never even thought that I will come to this academy again, I wonder how many years since the last time I met Celia ? )

A faint smile is peeking from Aria's lips as she knock on the door.  
Thereupon——、

「Yes, who might it..... Be ? 」

The door opens and then Celia appears.

Celia stiffened when she saw Aria's face and then her eyes opened wide.

(Even though we're of the same age, she's as youthful as ever huh)

Aria felt happy to see Celia's face after a long time which hasn't much changed. And then, a slight sense of aspiration.

「,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, Aria ? 」

Celia's timidly muttering Aria's name.

「Yeah, it's been a long time right. Celia. How many years should it be now ? 」

「L-long time no see ! What made you come to meet me ? 」

When a smile forming on Aria lips, Celia's happily embraced Aria.

They're of the same age but, their appearance is extremely far apart to the point that you can say they're an adult and children. And yet, in contrast to Celia child-like figure[loli], Aria's figure is that of genuine woman.

Aria gently embraced back Celia.

「Yeah, half-of it is for personal matter and the other half is business related.  
It's to meet you right」

「..... Work and personal matter, to me ? Well, fine then. Please enter then. I'll prepare the tea」

Though a huge question mark is appearing on top of Celia's head, she's urging Aria to enter the room for the time being.



「Please wait for a while since I'll prepare it right away」

Celia's smiling delightfully and then starts to prepare the tea with the boiled water which is always boiling, the faint aroma of tea leaves drifts inside the room right after that.

(It seems she still loves tea like usual. But well, the way she's making it isn't that different and still long way to go)

Aria's looking at Celia's figure as if smiling while thinking about such things. The truth is, she who once served as a maid in the castle of Bertram kingdom might be able to make it delicious but, Aria wanted to drink the tea made by Celia.

「Yup, what left is cooking it by steam you know. Let's have a little chat while waiting for it. Have you been working in Bertram kingdom now, Aria ? 」

Celia's carrying the complete set of tea utensil with tray and then asks her as she sits in front of Aria. Maybe because it's a meeting after a long time with one of her friend which is few in number, she looks happy.

「No, currently I'm working in Galwark kingdom. And retired from being adventurer two years ago」

「I-Is that true ! ? 」

When Aria's answering with a calm tone, Celia's staring at her with startled expression.

「Yeah, though my life as an adventurer ended up shortly after I started to become one, I'm enjoying what I do now. Does Celia know about duke Kretia house ? 」

「Of course. Aren't they the big-shot of Galwark kingdom」

Celia nodded while giving a prompt reply.

「Liselotte-sama who's the daughter of this duke Kretia is my current master, I'm working as her head maid」

「..... That surprised me. Aren't you the close aide amongst close aide」

「Fufu, surprised ? 」

Aria shows a faint smile on her face to Celia who sees her with eyes opened wide.

「Yeah. Well, for you who hate noble society and becoming an adventurer working for a noble is, uhm, it's a little..... 」

Celia timidly consented to her.

Though in reality Aria's also a former daughter of a noble, her house had some sort of circumstance, collapsed and then discarded by the aftermath of power struggle. Though she still attending the royal academy of Bertram kingdom in the past when she was a noble along with Celia, since the financial affair of her house is starting to go into the red is the reason she dropped out of school, she was even working as a maid in royal castle a while after that. Once, she happened to meet Rio in the royal castle as a court lady.

# Part 5

But, her house completely collapsed later and then Aria stopped working as a maid and became an adventurer instead, since Aria is naturally talented in martial arts despite being a woman, if one called a vocation, maybe being an adventurer was her vocation.

Thus, Aria became an adventurer but, since she had so many annoying acquaintances, she decided to leave the capital[of Bertram kingdom]. And then, she's visiting to give her farewell greeting to Celia in her room just before leaving the capital, they even lost the means of communication soon after that.

*“And, well that digest story aside——、”*

、

「Must be so, right. Though I have no intention of working for her at first, I was beaten by her persistence. The invitation of that ojou-sama was so tenacious」

Aria told that while looking somewhat delightful.

「Even so, it's about you. I can't believe that you'll change your feeling just because tenacious invitation you know. It's because you felt the charm of that child that you wanted to work for her right? 」

「Well, that is so. .... Though the character and appearance isn't similar at all, she made me recall a bit about you when we've a discussion in the process of invitation. If I must say it bluntly, that should be the reason I made a huge change of occupation」

「EH-EEEEEEEEEEEEHH? Geez, what are you talking about」

When Aria's saying it with smile on her face, Celia's blushing as if feeling embarrassed.

「Well, that's my current situation. Won't you tell me about your current situation? 」

「Me? U~hn..... Maybe it didn't change that much? My research made a progress though」

The matter about Rio crossed Celia's mind but, it won't have any effect even if she doesn't say it to Aria. Or rather, she can't even consult about it. She quietly decided to hold that back inside of her mind.

「Is that so? It seems that your complexion isn't that good but..... You're anxious right? Isn't that why your fatigue is accumulating?」

「EH? A~h, uhn. That might be so. The truth is, I'm forced to marry quickly by my father.....」

Though Celia's shocked by Aria's keen observation, she's speaking frankly while trying to hide the feeling of anxiety that she always felt.

「Ah, I see. So it's something like that huh. Certainly, our age is just the right age for marriage for a noble. Have you not found a nice candidate?」

「I'm living this kind of life, do you think that I'll have time for those things. And how about your situation in regard to that matter?」

「We're in similar situation aren't we. If I'm not that much exhausted from overwork」

So like that, their topic is inflated because the matter of marriage, an idle talk is unfolding a while after that. And then, after sometimes has passed——、

「When I noticed, quite sometimes have elapsed right. I have no choice but to leave soon」

Aria suddenly said that.

「Ara, leaving already?」

Celia's showing a gloomy face as if regretting it.

「I already say it right? Half of it is my job. Though I received free time to the degree of talking about the matter of society, I can't let myself stay for so long. Since the next matter, I will be asking to meet you with completely business matters, so please don't show that kind of face」

Aria's smiling gently as she soothed Celia.

「I see. Well, it can't be helped right. It seems you're completely alright. Your job seems hectic but, please come to meet me again. Come to think of it, what's

the job related which you said before.....」

「Yeah. Though almost all of it ended up as my private time, it's about this」

Saying so, Aria's taking out a letter which stamped with seal.

「..... A letter ? To me ? AH ! ? 」

Though Celia received the letter while slightly tilting her head, she's taken aback a moment later.

「A traveler who came to visit Almond a while ago written this letter to you in Rikka firm. Since my master was aware that you and I are a close friend, she's ordering me to deliver the letter while having a reunion at the same time but, it seems that's a letter from someone you know right」

「.....Eh? Uhm, Yeah. Maybe」

Celia's nodding while answering with high-pitched voice to Aria who explains the situation. Her awareness and line of sight was focused on the letter which she is holding with trembling hands.

「I see. It seems the sender of the letter isn't someone who has a grudge against you right. Though you're denying it just a while ago, aren't you properly loved by someone」

Aria's smiling feeling amused.

「Y-You misunderstand you know ! This child isn't that kind of person ! 」

Celia's cheeks is blushing while she's denying Aria's words in a hurry.

「Well, maybe I should just leave it that way. Since it's almost the time for me to leave, please take a good look at that letter. Well then, let's meet again later」

After leaving those words, Aria's turning around and then leaves the room.

「U-Uhn. Byebye, I said that you're misunderstanding it ! 」

While seeing off Aria, Celia was frantically said that back to correct her misunderstanding.

---

# Celia Side Story 5

## Part 1

After she's seeing off Aria.

When Celia's returning to her laboratory——,

「RIO..... IT'S FROM RIO THIS MUST BE RIO'S LETTER RIGHT. NOW I MUST READ THIS LETTER QUICKLY ! 」

She then started to break the seal on the letter which she received in a hurry. She inserted a paper knife in the gap between the paper, after tearing the seal, she opened the letter with a rising heartbeat and then, she's staring at the content of the letter with intense concentration.

The lined up sentences written on those letter is Rio's handwriting indeed. Since Celia has seen this penmanship so many times when he was still in the academy, she definitely won't mistake it. Moreover, the sender name at the end of the letter is name called 『Haruto』.

「Thank god. He's safe, Rio is safe right」 [TL : Rio right now— Facing a loli assassin] [ED: he is probably locked up in demi-human village the loli assassin appeared a few minutes after he gave them the letter]

Though the subject written in the letter isn't that important, it told her that his journey is going well. But——

「..... Even so, something like already entering Galwark kingdom, he's moving at a extremely fast pace isn't he ? 」

Celia's feeling something isn't right. From the capital of Bertram kingdom, Bertrand, until Almond city of Galwark kingdom which position is just right in the east direction, it's a distance that will take several weeks if one goes by foot.

If one goes by using Ancient Magic Tool(Ancient Artifact) to fly in the sky which called by magic ship, though you can crossing the national border and arriving in the same day, it might be difficult for the current Rio since there

requires so many conditions to board the magic ship.

Since Celia has no knowledge and Rio's keeping it as a secret from her the fact that he can strengthen his body to the point which can't be implemented by normal magic, that question of her was only natural.

「It can't be true that he's smuggling himself inside the magic ship right ?  
.....W-Well, it's okay as long as his journey is smooth and sound. So I should feel relieved for that right」

Though cold sweat was flowing along her back, she decided to ignore such a trivial matter, after taking a short breath. And then, her beautiful eyes was scanning over the content of the letter.

Maybe because he feared about the specific sender, despite the matter written is only harmless and inoffensive matter, there's a skillfully written sentence cheering on Celia at the end of the letter.

Therefore, since he has such a enjoyable and lively journey, he wants Celia to spend her day cheerfully too. Even though it maybe because he keeps worrying due to Celia's personality, because he can feel relieved if he knows that she's immersing herself in her research without minding about him, this is what he wishes for her. But, don't stay indoors for too long, do some exercise once in awhile. And then—— He'll make sure to confirm it when they meet again.

「..... Hahaha, I see, so you're already predicting my condition huh. Even though I should be the one who's cheering on you, you're the one who's cheered on me instead」

Celia was unintentionally crying when she read the end of the letter. Her tears are spilling non-stop.

「Oops, I can't be like this. The link will be blurred at this rate」

She's hurriedly putting the letter on top of the desk and then, Celia's taking out a handkerchief to wipe her tears. And then, at that time, she's immersing herself in her own feelings for a short while——

「..... I'm so miserable. I can't always carry this gloomy feeling on my back every now and then. Since Rio is so strong, I should follow his example」

She's murmuring in a low voice. Wiping her tears, her expression is extremely that of a gentle one, a gentle smile is peeking on her lips.

「Yosh, Let's do this. Since I leaving behind an amazing research result, I will give him a surprise once he returned ! 」

That's right, so that she can puff her chest(?) with pride when Rio returned someday. She must not show a miserable face to him. As soon as she makes a vow, she's immediately going to her work desk and begin her research.



And then, two days later.

Roland, the head family of earl Claire house decided to visit Celia again.

(I wonder if Celia-chan is alright. It doesn't seem that she's somewhat a little lively, though I know that she wants to continue with her research, the research subject is just a research subject. Should I go and scold her ? )

When pondering about that matter in front of the door, Rolan's knocking the door while taking a deep breath.



## Part 2

「..... Are you there, Celia-chan ? 」

Since there's no reply even after some time passes by, Roland called her name so that it can be heard in the room.

(Is she..... Not here ? I thought that the lecture in the academy should have ended around this time)

Roland's scratching his head with troubled face. Since he can't help but to return back in the next morning, if he misses this chance, working out sometime to meet her later will be difficult.

「The key are..... It's left open. ....Celia-chan. I'm gonna open this door you know」

Roland is opening the door with abandon then, timidly peeking the inside of the room. Though the figure of a strict-looking middle aged man in his prime who already grown his dandy beard peeking into the room of a teenage girl is giving off a dangerous atmosphere, he's feeling relieved seeing the back of his daughter, Celia, whos sitting on a chair facing her desk at the interior of the room.

「So she really is inside of the room. Celia-chan, your papa has come you know」

After releasing a relieved breath, Roland's calling to the back of Celia while entering inside of the room. But——

「.....」

Maybe because she's so focused in her research, she was silently sitting on her desk.

「Oof, don't tell me, she's ignoring me. Papa's shocked you know. Haa, don't tell me that you're angry since I'm forcing you too much to marry quickly ! ? Is this the rebellious age thats coming a bit too late ! ? But, wo what with that, when I imagine Celia-chan becoming like that ! 」

「N? Ara, just when I think it became noisy. When did you come, dear father ? Sorry. I've failed to notice that you're coming」

When Roland is suffering while holding his chest, Celia turned around as if nothing happened.

「U-Uhm. I just came you know」

Roland answered while looking slightly embarrassed to Celia who's speaking in a different enthusiasm.

「Come to think of it, you said "*I'll come again one week later*" before right」

「..... Haha, since it seemed that you didn't enjoy a reunion with papa」

「I won't, well..... It's because I was devoting myself in my research」

Celia's giving ambiguous answers as if feeling slightly guilty about it.

「GUH, you're not even denying it」

Roland was looking extremely dejected in a exaggerated manner. But——、

「By the way, though my time is precious..... What's the matter today ? 」

Celia's not even retorting to him and asking as if she's in hurry.

「I've said it right ? It's about your marriage you know. Have you thought about it a little seriously ? 」

Roland is smiling wryly as he frankly stated his business.

「.....You're right. Yeah, I've been thinking about it you know」

Celia's staring firmly on Rolands eyes and then nodding silently.

「Then, will you let me hear it. Let me sit for the time being」

When he says so, he's sitting on the chair used for reception. Thereupon, Celia's also moving to sit on the chair for reception of the guest and sitting in front of Roland. And then——、

「Since I won't even gloss over it, I'll say from my conclusion. I still don't feel like to marry yet. I want to immerse myself in my study」

Celia told her intention with resolute eyes.

「Well, I've expected such a answer but, I see. As I thought, it come to this huh. .... Listen up, even if it's not to make them as your fiancée, won't you at least have a marriage interview with them ? I've said it in my letter, a lot of marriage proposal is unexpectedly dropping to Celia-chan, though they have promising future some of them also don't have any problem in regard to their personality」

「No. Therefore, that..... I want to use my time for research rather than attending that marriage interview」

「Hahaha, despite being our daughter, you have such hardcore spirit of a researcher huh. You made me remember of my youth you know」

Roland's smiling wryly to Celia who told her answer as if it's a wonderful answer. Thereupon——、

「Two years..... Can't I at least receive the next two years for my own time ? 」

Celia suddenly told that.

「Two years, two years huh..... By that time, Celia-chan is already 19 years old you know ? 」

## Part 3

Normally, the marriageable age for the noble daughters is until they're 20 years old. Though it doesn't mean that a noble girl in their twenties can't get married, it's because the number of marriage proposals is decreased just after passing the 20 years old mark. Which means that they can't get married once they're at that age, it's not like there's any problem with their personality, this kind of prejudice have been seeping to the bone of the society of noble.

「You should know what I'm researching right now right ? 」

「Of course. You're developing a magic tool to accurately measure someone's magical power right ? It was a difficult work which never succeeded with the current level of magic in the Strahl region right」

Roland replied right away when Celia's asking that.

「..... It doesn't mean that there's no reaction. Two years, there's a hope that I can implement it to practical if I have two years..... I've already arrived in the area which I'm looking for」

「Hou.....」

Roland eyes is opened wide in amazement.

「If I leave such conspicuous achievements, marriage proposals will drop in one after another regardless of my age right ? 」

Celia's looking straight at Roland and then said those words. Thereupon——、

「Of course it is」

Roland is staring back at Celia while nodding——、

(That's nice eyes. She's not a girl who'll bluff without any kind of basis. Despite I was worrying that she'll be completely focusing on her research without even be able to step back if I'm not stopping her, maybe this is the correct answer.....)

When he thinks so.

「..... Your atmosphere's completely changed in this one week right,

Celia-chan. Could it be that something good was happened ? 」

When Roland suddenly asked those question.

「EH? No, there's nothing like that but.....」

Celia who's poked right on the mark is shaking her head while being startled.

「There's no need to hide it you know. I know from my experience.....

Right, Celia-chan, you have someone that you love right ? If there was, then it's okay for you to be in that area」

Despite speaking with a bright tone, he asked as if doubting his guess a while later.

「I-I said that it's not like that ! I'm not thinking of him in that way ! 」

Celia's face is flushing red while answering with a shrill voice.

(he definitely is, it's because you have this kind of reaction you know, Celia-chan)

Roland's thinking otherwise, after sighing——,

「I know, I know. Two years, I will be watching over Celia-chan's research during that time」

He decided to push Celia back.

「..... Can I ? 」

Celia's astonished to the fact that his permission is coming out easier on the contrary to her expectation.

「Ah. It certainly is complicated to marry my cute daughter to someone but, seeing that you know that there won't be any bright future to the unmarried girl, it's definitely painful for me to just silently watch over you as your marriage is getting further away but..... It was something you thought right. When I'm imagining Celia-chan's delightful face as the result of your research is bearing fruit, it came to the point that I want to obediently cheer you on. It's because I trust you..... Celia-chan. Show me that you can accomplish the exploit of the uncharted territory」

「Y-Yeah ! Thank you very much ! 」

A delightful smile is blooming on Celia's face as she replied to Roland.

「Moreover, if there's already a man in your heart, I have no need to hurry you to get married right. If there's a man who you want to introduce, bring him along for once. I'll give a direct judgement whether that person is suitable for Celia-chan」

Roland is grinning widely when he said so.

「I-I've said that I'm not thinking of him in that way ! 」

「Hahaha, well, it's fine then. If he has the intention to marrying sooner or later to Celia-chan right」

Roland is laughing happily to the confused Celia. They're enjoying their own parent and child time with just the two of them a while after that.

And then, the research of Celia is a great success and bearing fruit in less than two years—— or so but, that's another story.

# Celia Side Story 6 - Happy Marriage Life

## Part 1

This is a dream. Yes, a dream. Must be a dream.

Inside the far away dream while dozing off——、

「Hey, darling」

The shy Celia's addressed a youth, her husband—— while from a third person perspective.

That's why she feels that this is strange. Since Celia couldn't remember the youth's face. And yet, she really missed him, she felt neither rejection nor discomfort. *Why, I wonder?*

「What's the matter, sensei? 」

Her youthful husband who had a well-ordered face asked with a smile on his face. Thereupon——、

「This way of calling me is banned」

Celia puffed her lovely cheeks.

「Sorry. I'm not quite used to this yet..... How about "Celia"? 」

Her husband scratched his head as if feeling awkward, and then called Celia's name without honorifics.

「..... Uhn」

Celia's cheeks colored slightly while nodding as if feeling embarrassed.

「.....」

They just stared at each other for a while after that——, 「Will you sit first, I'll make the tea」

Her young husband made that suggestion while letting out an unintentional smile.

「U-Uhn.....」

Celia nodded timidly as she sat on the living room's sofa. After the youth confirmed she was comfortable, he headed towards the kitchen which was placed in the living room.

There was no one else inside her dream world. Celia looked at the figure of the one that was her husband while he made tea in the kitchen. When looking at him, she noticed that she really missed his figure.

The youth returned from the kitchen a short while later——, 「It's done」

And then, a complete tea set was placed on the desk with a tray. After the youth poured the tea inside of the pot into the cup with an experienced movement, he presented it to Celia with a 「Here you go」.

After Celia's brief 「Thank you」, she quietly tasted the tea. Though this was inside of her dream, the flavor of the tea is spread in her mouth. A while later——, 「It's a really a nostalgic flavor. As expected, the tea made by you is the best」

Celia said her impression on the tea.

「Thank you very much」

The youth responded with gratitude in a delighted tone.

「In this case, I should be the one who feels grateful. Thank you for always making tea for me. It would be better if there were something I could give you but.....」

Celia said feeling worried. Anyhow, because her *raison d'être* was research, girl-like things weren't her strong points at all. But——、

「The best reward is to be gratefully accepting Sen..... Celia. I'll happily receive your feelings」

## Part 2

The youth's smiled delightfully while shaking his head.

「B-But, I also want to express my gratitude. Isn't there something that I can do? Something that you'd like? I'll do my best to fulfill it ! 」

Celia's face flushed red while asking with an excited voice.



「Uhn..... Well then, can I embrace you ? 」

The youth said that after groaning with a pensive look on his face.

「.....EH ! ? 」

Celia's face became even redder.

「I wish for that then」

Saying so, her young husband smiled widely with a mischievous smile, and then sat on Celia's side.

「Ah, No, uhm, this.....」

Celia became flustered as she peered at her partners face to the point that they were almost glued together.

「Can't I ? 」

The youth approached Celia.

「Wha-I mean i-it's no good..... No, it's not no good but, I-I need to prepare mentally ! 」

Celia looked at his face and then tightly shut her eyes. This is a dream. Yes, a dream. It's a dream, and yet——. The loud beating of her heart wouldn't stop.

Opening her eyes felt scary to her, if she'd wake up from this dream, her memories of this dream might vanish. Since reality was cruel.

Celia wished to dream forever.

This was a dream. And yet, this was her pillar of support, fleeting memories and wishes, before she reunited again with Rio.

# Aisia Side Story

## Part 1

The climate and the terrain of the savage land was complicated. This is the story of Aisia and Rio when they're flying toward the Strahl region by going through the savage land.

And, just before the sun started to incline to the west, Rio and co was flying on top of the spreading steppe in one part of the savage land. Thereupon——、

「It's a bit faster but, let's stop in this area for today. Let's place the rock house on the oasis over there」

Rio's proposing his idea to Aisia while pointing to the oasis far below them.

「Okay」

After Aisia nods, Rio's slowly lowering his altitude and approached the oasis. Aisia's chasing after his back.

(There's no dangerous beast around this area.....)

And then, when Rio's landing on the side of the oasis, he's sending wind which contained with his own magical power to scanning the surrounding ——、

「It's a pretty lake isn't it」

He spoke to Aisia.

「Yeah. It seems it'll feel really good to swim in it」

Aisia's saying so while nodding at him.

「Swim ? 」

「There's swimsuit」

「..... Come to think of it, I remember that I bought it in Almond before the journey toward the village」

Rio's opening his eyes slightly and then recalling of that memories. It was when he's still living in Strahl region with Miharuru and co, it was the story of when he's taking along Aki and Masato to go to Almond for shopping.

「It seems that the swimsuit of Rikka firm is a well made one. Sara and co also referring to the one purchased by Miharuru and co and they say that they'll make a new one. They say *“let's swim if you have time”*」

「Ahaha, I see. Well then, since we're currently unable to swim together with everyone, shall we swim in this place. The temperature around this area is also quite a high one, let me accompany you if possible」

「Well then, change clothes」

When Rio's proposing it, Aisia is nodding in agreement.

「Understood. In that case, maybe I should taking out the house around this vicinity」

After that, Rio's looking for a suitable spot to taking out the rock house. After taking out the swimsuit which stored in the rack, they're changed their clothes in a different place.

Rio's finished changing faster than Aisia and going toward the spring one step ahead of her. He's waving his hand on the water surface of the spring and then pouring his magical power to begin investigating the magical power reaction with same skill as detection using wind spirit arts.

(..... It seems there's no danger inside the water too)

Though he's not absolutely sure, it's okay if he's diving toward the bottom of the spring to investigate it later. At most, it's just small number of fish swimming in it.

(It's a bit hot but, the weather is fine)

Rio's looking at the sky in which the sun is still high, and then squinted his eyes as if dazzled by it's brilliance. Surely, the weather is just right for swimming. Though Aisia isn't proactively desiring something from herself, maybe the thing about her wanting to swim is just natural.

In that case, when Rio's doing a warm up while gazing at the spring and

waiting for Aisia——、

「Haruto」

He heard Aisia's voice coming from behind.

「..... Aisia」

Rio's turning around. Thereupon, he unintentionally opening his eyes wide. It's because Aisia who's standing on that place is just too beautiful and lovely.

Aisia was wearing separate type swimsuit. The so called bikini. Though the degree of exposure is high, if he pushed to say, he don't feel that it's too risque maybe because she wear see-through pareo along with her neat and tidy atmosphere. Or maybe because she have great style that it suited her the best.

「i tried to put on the swimsuit. The way I'm wearing it, is not strange is it? 」

## Part 2

Aisia's seizing the cuff of her pareo with both hands and looking below slightly as if to check it.

「..... It suits you very well you know. You're beautiful」

After catching his breath, Rio said his impression.

「If that's the case, I'm glad then」

Aisia's letting out a kind smile. Thereupon, Rio felt that his heart is throbbing loudly which is unlike the usual him and his cheeks feel hot.

「It's faster but, let's swim. The surrounding waterside is shallow water but, since I don't know how deep the inner side is, I'll dive for a moment to check it. Wait right there for a moment since I'll be back soon, Aisia」

Rio's leaving with those words and then hurriedly diving toward the central part of the spring as if to hide his embarrassment. And then, after flying with spirit arts of wind, his body is sinking with a "plop" just like that. After setting the atmosphere in his surrounding with same spirit arts of wind to make a special space in which he can breath despite being in water, and looking at his surrounding while floating in the water.

(..... It's wide but, it seems it's not that deep. It seems there's also no dangerous kind of aquatic living being)

The transparent water space is extremely beautiful with sparkling from the reflected sun ray. Rio's entrusting his body in that extraordinary space and looking absentmindedly for a while. Thereupon——、

(Return)

When he think so, he heard plopping sound coming from above. When he raised his face, there was the figure of Aisia who is diving underwater using same space at him which is created with spirit arts of wind——、

「What just happened, Haruto？」

She connected her hand while diving till arrived at Rio side and then called

him. She might have worried due to his late return.

「It's nothing, I was looking at the underwater scenery. I feel that it's beautiful」

When Rio says so, Aisia looked at her surrounding——、

「Yeah. It's beautiful」

And give a short consent. And then, she suddenly clasped Rio hand.

Rio's gently grasping back her hand and——、

「Let's go back. Let's just swim normally since you've even changed to your swim suit」

And suggesting so to her.

「Uhn」

After Aisia's nodding, Rio moves toward the waterside while pulling Aisia's hand. And then, when their head is coming out from water surface——、

「Lift your spirit arts」

「Uhn」

After she cancelled the space which was made with spirit arts of wind. The water which was avoiding them due to the space is rushing toward Rio's and Aisia's body immediately.

「cold」

Aisia muttered those words with her monotonous voice.

「Right. But, doesn't it feel good」

「Yeah. It's chapuchapu, and jabujabu right\* ? 」[TL\* : Both are splasing SFX with different sound, basically “splashing around”]

When Rio's asking that question, Aisia's nodding, she's scooping the water with both of her hands and fiddled with it. Gradually she's freely playing and manipulating the water with spirit arts.

「As I thought, you're skilled aren't you」

Rio's giving his praise and admiration to Aisia as he watching her playing with

eyes filled with admiration. Thus——、

「Won't you playing the water with me too, Haruto? What's the matter? 」

Aisia invited Rio while looking at him with her eyes wide open.

「..... You're, right. It's been a while to reserve time with just the two of use, shall we play. I'll play what you want to do, Aisia」

It's not fitting of him but, going back to a child once in a while isn't a bad thing. After that, Rio was playing water along with Aisia till the sun set in the west.

# Haruto Side Story: The Grey Color of Amakawa-kun?

## Part 1

The place is in Japan. One year after the disappearance of Miharu's group, the season changed to spring again. This was a story that happened when the sakura petals were fluttering around.

Amakawa Haruto became a sophomore starting from this spring. Amongst the new life everywhere, even the high school which Haruto attended was holding an opening ceremony to welcome the freshman.

After the entrance ceremony ended, after school——、

「Hey girls please pay attention, do you all want to go to karaoke after this ? 」

And then, one of the girls—— Chizuru, made a suggestion. Chizuru is a lively girl who likes to help others and has become the center of the class. She also has a wide range of connections regardless of gender. Maybe because they were in the same class during their first year, there were many students who greeted Haruto.

「YES ! I want to come ! 」

「Me too, Chizuru-chan ! 」

「Me, me too, take me too ! 」

When it comes to the event after a class change, it was known as the best chance to widen ones network. All girls assertively announced their participation one after another.

「OOOKEY— ! Hey, will you go too, Mafuyu ? 」

Chizuru asked the girl called Mafuyu—— Her best friend who sat next to her. Despite being a cute girl, she had a meek face.

「Ah, yes. Maybe I should go too」



Mafuyu nodded timidly while looking at the corner of the classroom. On that place was Haruto who was steadily making his preparations to go home with an uninterested expression.

「Haha~n」

Chizuru showed an expression suddenly realizing something.

「W-What ? 」

Mafuyu tilted her head with an awkward smile on her face. Thereupon――、

「Ehem, aside from that we should go to hanami[i] with all members of the class right ? 」

A cheerful boy who is a member of the sport club made that proposal. Close to half the male students belonging to the class were waiting on his back.

「E~h, what should we do ? 」

Chizuru looked to the other girls for their opinion.

「Picking the place is troublesome」

「It also takes quite bit of time to preparation right?」

「Won't that make us tired instead ? 」

Etc etc, it seems the girls weren't that interested.

「That's right」

Chizuru looked at the male students and then shrugged her shoulder a bit.

「GUH, in that case shall we go to karaoke too」

So the male students tried to wiggle their way to their plan.

「E~h, are the male students going too ? 」

「Isn't it okay if we use different rooms?」

Though the girls became noisy, it seems they had mostly agreed, they finally gave an OKEY. Even during such an exchange, Haruto was about to silently leave the classroom with an expression as if this had nothing to do with him. Thereupon――、

「I-I'm going to leave for a while with Mafuyu. Leave this place to me ! I think I'll come too ! I'll be back soon ! 」

After saying that, Chizuru hurriedly took Mafuyu's hand and then rushed after Haruto.

「EH? WHA, CHI-CHAN ! ? 」

## Part 2

Mafuyu, whose hand was suddenly pulled by Chizuru, was bewildered at being dragged from the classroom just like that ——

「Amakawa-kun ! 」

Chizuru called to Haruto who was currently walking in the corridor.

「EH? 」

Haruto stopped and turned around.

「Wai, please wait a minute, there's something I want to talk about ! 」

「Wha, Chi-chan ! Why did you take me too ! ? 」

Mafuyu protested with a beef red face to Chizuru who was tightly clamping her hand.

「..... What's the matter ? 」

Haruto's tilted his head and asked as if unable to understand the situation.

「Everyone, and maybe including the male students are going to karaoke after this, do you want to go too, Amakawa-kun ? There should be male students who're close to you amongst them, right ? 」

Chizuru asked him bluntly.

「Indeed, but. My apologize. I've a part time job after this.....」

Haruto scratched his head and then answered with an apologetic voice.

「E~h, part time ? Part time again. Aren't you always going to part time, Amakawa-kun. It's fine to stop working after the opening ceremony\*」 [TL\* : Courtesy to Isekai Shousetsu from NUF]

Chizuru exclaimed with a half-shocked expression.

「I'm really sorry. Please enjoy the karaoke with everyone」

Haruto answered so with a wry smile on his face.

「..... Hey, I wonder, why are you working ? 」

Chizuru asked with a wondering expression.

「The reason, since I have to earn enough to live alone and have nothing else to do」

Haruto honestly told her why he did part time jobs.

「Eh, Amakawa-kun is living alone ? 」

Maybe because this is the first time she heard about this matter, Chizuru looked at him in wonder. Mafuyu who stood by her side also looked at him with a really interested expression.

「That's right」

Haruto nodded and then——

「He~..... Ah, then, if it's that, is it a girlfriend. Don't you have one ? Could it be that you're gathering money for that 」

Chizuru probed even further and asked about another possible reason for him to work. Though the truth is that she vaguely noticed the reason for him to live alone, since it's probably due to the complex situation of his family, she held back for now.

「Girlfriend ? As if. I have no girlfriend you know」

Haruto eyes blinked for a moment and then replied with a bittersweet smile.

「EH? Is that, true ? Why ? 」

「Eh, even if you ask for the reason.....」

After Chizuru asked that question Haruto scratched his head with a troubled face.

「It's nothing, since Amakawa-kun seems like the popular type. Rather, you're actually popular. AH, then, could it be that you actually don't like girls[ii] ? 」

「Eh ? No..... It's not because of that」

Haruto slowly shook his head in denial even while being bewildered from such an absurd accusation. Though Miharū's figure flashed in his mind during that moment, he kept his smile as if to deceive them.

「He~~, I see, so that's how it is. That's quite a surprise, right Mafuyu ? 」

### Part 3

Chizuru gave her consent with a wide grin on her face and then suddenly turned the direction of the conversation towards Mafuyu.

「HE ! ? A-Yeah, Uhm, that's right ! That's unexpected ! Yeah, it's unexpected」

Maybe because she was in a bewildered state, she gave several exaggerated nods.

「Ah, this girl's name is Mafuyu, have you become her acquaintance, Amakawa-kun ? 」

Chizuru nodded as if satisfied and then asked whether Haruto knew about Mafuyu.

「Uhm, I don't know her, maybe ? 」

Haruto shook his head while trying to recall about her in his memory. The truth is they spoke once a year ago but, there was no memory of that conversation in Haruto's memories anymore. Therefore, Mafuyu showed a slightly sad expression. But——、

「A~h, I see, you don't know her huh. Since the two of you'll be in the same class after this, make sure to get along as people that have season in their name[iii] ! 」

「Ah, no, uhm..... P-Please take care of me」

When being introduced by Chizuru, Mafuyu bowed her head with a blushing face.

「Yeah, we're in the same class. Understood, please take care of me too. .... Well then, I should go soon」

Haruto returned her greeting and prepared to leave.

「Yeah. Sorry for asking something strange. Do your best with your part time job ! Hey」

Chizuru saw Haruto off with a lively voice and then hit Mafuyu's shoulder.

「S-See you again, Amakawa-kun ! 」

Mafuyu saw Haruto off with a high-pitched voice.

[i] Flower viewing[sakura]

[ii] [TL\* : no need to explain actually but, just in case. A homo]

[iii] [TL: Haruto name have kanji “spring/Haru” in his name, while Mafuyu have kanji “winter/Fuyu” name in her name]

# Celia-sensei Demonstration, Wedding Lecture (Silver Brides)

## Part 1

※ Spoiler ending for volume 6. Please Read With Caution ※

The time is 1000 year of Sacred calendar. After Rio saved Celia from her unwanted marriage, it was the day where they've arranged to purchase necessary goods in Almond.

Celia's finished writing the letter which will be addressed to her parents inside her room which was prepared by Rio in his rock house, she reporting to Rio and then sorting out all of the goods that they're going to buy with the help from Aisia.

「For underwear, it's in this shelf..... Can you help me to fold it, Aisia ? 」

「Understood」

Aisia's following Celia's instruction and proceeding to fold Celia's underwear in silence. She is getting used to it since she helped Oufia and Miharu back in the village.

Though the underwear and the clothes that was just bought by Celia was just scattered on top of the bed, it's steadily being tidied up with their joint effort. And then, when they've finished almost all of the clothes——、

「U~hn.....」

Celia was staring at the wedding dress of princess line which was placed on top of the bed while groaning in frustration. This wedding dress is an order made to the merchant by Roland, Celia's father. When it comes to at least preparing the best wedding dress to Celia who's coerced to a marriage which she doesn't wish for, there's a circumstance in why he prepared this without holding back on spending his money.

And, you might say that it's one of the few of her property as she was wearing

it when she escaped from the ceremony hall, though she proposed to sell it if it's proven to be a burden for Rio, the answer she received from Rio is 「There's no way we're going to sell it」.

「Will you fold this too ? 」

Aisia's asking Celia while tilting her head.

「That's right. It'll lose its shape if we fold it. On the other hand, it's too bulky to be hanged, we can't throw it nor sell it.....」

Celia who can't decide whether to putting it or stowing it replied with a troubled face. Since it's an order made item which she received from her father, though there's no way she can dispose it when it becomes a hindrance, it's also an item which she can't wear on a daily basis.

「You won't wear this again ? 」

Aisia asked with a curious face.

「That is..... Just natural you know. Because this is a dress which you wear in your wedding」

Celia answered while smiling wryly.

「So you can't wear it except during the wedding ceremony ? 」

Aisia's asking with a curious tone again.

「Yeah. .... Rather, do you want to try wearing it, Aisia」

Celia asked as she noticed that Aisia's staring intently at her wedding dress. But——

「I'm not marrying you know ? And I think the size also won't fit me」

Thus it's her reply. Celia and Aisia have difference whether it's their height or their 3 size.

「W-Well, that's true indeed..... AH, even so, if it's you, you can wear it by materialization clothes like this wedding dress isn't it ? You should be able to easily do it by changing the dressing of that one piece right ? 」

Celia's lips slightly pouting and then asking as if she suddenly remembered that fact. Because she heard from the person herself when they were bathing

together yesterday that the white one piece that is normally worn by Aisia is materialized, she materializing it by knitting with mana and odo.

By the way, since the one piece is seemingly part of materialization of Aisia, she basically can't make another one except for this (To be exact, despite being able to make the general outline, she can make complex clothes such as underwear or slothes, it'll vanish immediately when Aisia's hand parts from it).

「..... How's that? Want to try it」

Aisia's thinking for a while and then moving to executing her words. A pale light is coming out of Aisia's one piece in the next moment and then it's starting to change its shape.



## Part 2

「He~.....」

Celia's looking at that situation with great interest. She's wondering about what kind of principle she's using to make those cloth, if it can be made with spirit arts, can it be made with magic, her curiosity as a researcher is soaring. But, Aisia's one piece already completely changed while she was thinking of those matters.

「Done. How? 」

Aisia's asking while looking at her own body. Maybe because she made it using Celia's wedding dress as reference, the completed design was the resemblance of it. The contrast of her pink colored hair and the pure white wedding dress is really a sight for sore eyes.

「..... Yup, it's pretty. And matches very well」

Maybe because being fascinated by the figure of Aisia in a wedding dress, Celia's saying that with deep admiration.

「Thank you very much. Then, back to normal」

After saying her gratitude, Aisia's immediately going to change her dress to it's previous form. But——

「W-Wait ! Since you made it with such great trouble, how about showing it to Rio ? 」

Celia's proposing that idea in panic.

「.....Uhn」

Aisia's pondering her proposal for a while and then nodded to her.

「Well, shall we go then」

Celia's saying so and about to opening the door of the room. But——、

「Celia won't wear her dress ? 」

Now, Aisia was the one who's waiting for Celia.

「..... EH ? Me ? 」

Maybe she's being startled due to the unexpected turn of event.

「uhn」

Aisia's nodding in silence.

「F-Fine then, I'll do it」

Celia replied as if feeling embarrassed.

「..... Really ? 」

Aisia's walking and then peering at Celia face from point-blank range.

「U-Uhm」

Celia's nodded timidly.

「Okay. Then, let's go」

Maybe because Aisia understood her situation, she's opening the door and then left the room by herself. And then proceeded to look for Rio outside of the room.

Thereupon, she immediately found his figure who's currently relaxing in the living room.

「..... What's the matter, Aisia ? Why are you wearing the wedding dress」

Rio asked with a confused tone when he saw the figure of Aisia in her wedding dress.

「I knitted this by imitating Celia's dress」

Thus is her reply.

「How is it, it's matching very well right ? 」

Celia suddenly appeared from Aisia's back and asked for Rio's impression.

「..... Yeah, she's really beautiful」

Rio's answering with a bashful face while looking at Aisia.

「But, it's a bit hard to move in it」

Aisia was saying so while twisting her body, maybe because the convenience in using it is different from her usual one piece dress.

「Ahaha, because it's not a dress that you wear for the sake of moving around isn't it」

Rio's laughing as he feels it's funny.

## Part 3

「Is it because it's a dress that you wear at a wedding ? 」

「yeah, that's right」

When Aisia's asking, Rio's nodding at her with a smile on his face.

「Then, since I'm wearing a wedding dress, will we do a mock wedding ? 」

Aisia's suddenly saying those words.

「.....Eh?」

Rio and Celia voice's overlapped while looking at her with a senile expression.

「W-Why is it suddenly turning to that direction ? 」

Celia's asking to Aisia.

「Because I'm interested what kind of thing this wedding is. Do you know about it, Haruto ? 」

Aisia simply told her true motive.

「U~hn, now that you say it, I'm also not very clear about the details of the progress like the vow ceremony.....」

Rio's replying as he was pondering about it. Though he was taught about the common etiquette of royalty and nobility in the royal academy, he never received a lecture in regards to marriage. Moreover, Rio who's originally an orphan never got a invitation nor participated in the wedding ceremony of this world.

「Do you know about it, Celia ? 」

Aisia's sending that question to Celia.

「Yeah. Well, I've attended the wedding ceremony on several occasions, first is.....」

Maybe because Celia's train of thought turning into a strange direction, she nodding obediently and then hesitating. Thereupon——、

「Then, teach me」

Aisia's begging to Celia.

「E-Even if you're asking me to teach you, W-Wedding is something that you do with someone that you love you know ? 」

「..... So, Celia's fallen in love with that man ? 」

「I-It hurts me when you mention him but.....」

For Celia who's half-forced-half-threatened for political marriage of convenience with Charles Albo, she can't even refute Aisia.

「I also don't understand very well the meaning of marriage. Whether you're doing it with someone that you love or with someone that you hate. Is there any meaning in it ? 」

Thus, Aisia's question is simple and yet complex.

「U~hm, the ideal is with the one you love but, even without something like that, I wonder if it's always that other party to whom you'll be making the vow with ? 」

Celia's pondering her answer as if troubled by it.

「I see..... Then, let's do a wedding ceremony between me and Haruto. Haruto is the groom. I'm the bride」

Just how high is Aisia's level of understanding to suddenly say those words.

「WHAA..... ! ? 」

Celia's mouth is gaped in amazement.

「Teach us the way, Celia」

Aisia's calmly asking to Celia.

「T-That way of speech, I heard it as if you're going to do the real wedding, aren't you ! ? 」

Celia's confirming Aisia intention in panic.

「Yeah. Since I'll be together forever with Haruto. Thus we'll get married」

Aisia nodded nonchalantly.

「Haha.....」

## Part 4

Rio doesn't even know what he has to say in this situation and can do nothing but smile wryly. It was because sometimes Aisia will make such astounding suggestions.

Celia has also only known her for a short while but, she knows that quirk firsthand. But, it doesn't mean that she's not surprised. Celia opened her mouth with a dumbfounded face. But, in the meanwhile——

「Y-You're mistaken ! You're mistaken in something right ! I know that it's definitely another meaning ! 」

Celia's shouting in panic.

「Wedding is to make a vow with your partner to be together forever isn't it ? 」

「That's right, but, the so called wedding is a vowing ceremony to give your everything to your marriage partner ! It's not something that you do rashly ! 」

「I'll give my vow you know」

What a bold declaration said by Aisia.

「.....」

Celia can't do nothing but being speechless. That moment——

(Huh, isn't it okay it's not like they're married right ? )

As she thinks so.

「Prepare everything」

Aisia made a implicit order to Celia.

「R-Rio ! 」

Celia's requesting for Rio's reinforcement in order to obstruct the flow of the situation.

「Uhm, Aisia, marriage is something that you do when both side loves each other[i]. Well, sometimes there's a case where you did it with someone that

you didn't love but, how should I say this.....」

Maybe because Rio also having a hard time to explain it clearly to Aisia, he can't give her a universal answer with clear consistency and instead tries to persuade her like choosing his own words.

「I love Haruto you know ? Do you hate me, Haruto ? 」

So Aisia line.

「No, I love you too but.....」

Rio's responding with troubled face. In the first place, what is marriage. He also didn't really understand about it. Thereupon——、

「Then, let's do this. Let's do a mock wedding for the sake of teaching what a wedding is to Aisia. In the end it's just a practice, a PRACTICE. It's for the sake of Aisia's education」

Celia proposed that idea as if resigned to the flow of events. She judged that it's better to do it in the form of training rather than forcing it to real marriage.

「..... Well, in that case. How about that, Aisia ? 」

「Understood」

Aisia's nodding obediently when Rio's confirming her answer.

「Well then, Rio will become the groom while the bride is.....」

Just when Celia arrived to that word, she keeps imagining her own figure as she looks at the figure of Aisia who's wearing the wedding dress. After that she's pouting with 「Mu~h」 and then after coughing unnaturally——、

「..... Wait a minute. I'll change my clothes too. Help me, Aisia」

She goes back to her room with a blushing cheek.

「uhn」

Aisia nods and then chases after Celia.

「..... It turned into a strange situation」

Maybe because Rio was already mentally exhausted, he just let out a weary



smile.



Around 30 minutes later, Celia who changed her clothes to a wedding dress is coming back together with Aisia who's also wearing a similiar wedding dress.

「..... Welcome back」

## Part 5

Rio's staring dumbfoundedly at those two's figure. Because the two who wear the wedding dress was truly beautiful.

「What, do you think ? It isn't strange ? 」

Celia's asking for Rio's impression with a flushed cheek.

「Yeah, you look really beautiful」

Rio gave his impression with a embarrassed expression.

(Even so, did sensei really need to change her clothes ? )

Rio thinks so but, he felt that it's better left unsaid.

「Well then, let's begin immediately. What should I do, Celia ? 」

Aisia's urging Celia to start the mock wedding immediately.

「That's right, will the groom have to wait in front of the altar beforehand, or must the bride and the groom enter together, there's several styles but, there's no change in the fact that the bride must walk on the virgin road till reaching the altar. Should we do it in the style where the groom is waiting in front of the altar beforehand」

Celia taught the necessary procedure.

「Then, let's make the altar on there. Haruto will wait on that place」

「Roger」

Rio's smiling as he follows Aisia's intruction and then standing on one corner of the living room which they used as a altar.

「Isn't it better if we're walking together till the altar ? 」

Aisia's asking Celia.

「..... Yeah, let's do that. You mean that there's two brides, it's not a common custom but, it's better to do that if we're looking at this situation」

Celia was thinking for a while and then replied.

(Well, it's nothing but a practice right. Yup, it's training. Let's not worry about trivial matters)

He's telling that to himself..... It has nothing to do with thinking "only Aisia is walking on the virgin road, so sly", or the fact that she wants to walk on the virgin road too.

And then, Celia and Aisia's walking together till reaching Rio location.

「There'll be a priest who'll become a witness on this place and then watching over the vowing ceremony but, let's omit that one since there is no one like that here」

Celia said that after standing in front of Rio along with Aisia.

「okay. How do you do the vowing ceremony？」

Aisia's asking Celia with a eloquent tone.

「That is, both side saying their vows together and then following by exchanging rings.....」

Though Celia replied restlessly, she said those words with her face blushed red.

「Exchanging ring？」

Aisia tilts her head with a huge question mark on her head.

「..... A-A-AN-D,T-Then, K-K-K-Kiss vow」

Celia was mumbling those words.

「Kiss」

Aisia's looking at Rio as she repeats Celia's words like a parrot.

「..... Aisia, this is training right？」

Rio said that with a awkward smile on his face.

「Yes, I understand」

## Part 6

Aisia's nodding and then closing her distance with Rio.

「A-Aisia ? 」

Rio's flinching as he looks at Aisia who's looking at his face from a very close distance. And just like that she gradually brings her face closer to Rio. Celia was looking at those two situation with a senile face but——,

「..... W-WAIT A MINUTE, THE TRAINING SHOULD BE ENOUGH AT THIS POINT RIGHT ! ? I MEAN SINCE THIS IS DEFINITELY JUST TRAINING, THERE'S NO RING, AND NO NEED TO TRULY KISS ! 」

She quickly protests to Aisia when she comes to her senses.

Thereupon, maybe because Celia's protest succeeded, Aisia suddenly stopped approaching just right before her lips overlapping with Rio. Stepping back one step from Rio while keeping her distance from him.

「.....」

Rio unintentionally dropped his shoulder.

「Next is Celia's turn」

Aisia's turning around to looking at Celia and then urging her to do the mock of kiss oath with Rio.

「EH, ah, u-uhn.....」

Celia's confused as her face was blushing red and then nodding in silence. Aisia's pulling Celia's hand and then pushing her toward Rio. Celia was stepping up toward Rio who's looking down at her.

「There's no need to get way too close like Aisia you know ? 」

Rio's saying that to Celia just to make sure.

「I-I know that ! It's practice, JUST PRACTICE ! 」

Celia said that in hurry.

「Yes. Sorry it turned into something strange since you got yourself dragged by

Aisia. Even so, I never expected that she goes as far as forcing sensei you know ? 」

Rio's laughing peevishly as he says so to Celia.

「It's not like I'm being forced you know..... In the first place, it's not like I'll do this with someone that I don't have feelings for even if it's for the sake of training」

Though Celia's saying that, Rio failed to catch her words since she's muttering her second line in a love voice.

「Sensei ? 」

When Rio understood Celia's voice, he brought his face closer to Celia.

「I-It's nothing ! That aside, it's enough with this right ? Our face is also getting closer, so we'll end the practice of the kiss ! 」

The flushing Celia is looking at Rio's face from point-blank range and then retreated in panic.

「Right. Excuse me」

Rio apologized with a sunny smile blooming on his face. Thereupon——、

「What we should do next, Celia ? 」

Aisia's asking for the next step.

「Next is words of oa-..... Eh, isn't that what we should do before kiss of oath ! The order is reversed you know ! The kissing part is the last ! 」

When Celia noticed that they just skipped the steps, her thought suddenly becomes a mess.

「Well then, let's do it again from the beginning」

Aisia's nonchalantly declaring to do it over again.

「A-Again you say.....」

Maybe because they must repeat that kiss of oath again. Celia's cheeks turned red maybe because she remembered when she almost kissed Rio just a while ago. Thereupon——、

「If Celia doesn't want to, you can become the priest you know ? This time I'll be entering together with Rio」

## Part 7

Aisia's seizing Rio's arm as she says those words.

「Y-YOU CAAAN'T, That's too sly ! T-That's not it, I mean, since I'm going as far as changing to a wedding dress, we'll be entering together ! I never even said a word about not wanting to do it ! 」

Celia's going to the opposite side of Aisia and then seized Rio's other arm. As a result, Rio's interposing between Aisia and Celia who wore wedding dress on both of his arms.

「Well then, let's go till outside of the living room as it is」

Aisia's pulling Rio's arm and then walking on the place where she used to came before to do it again from the entrance.

「No need to be impertinent now, Aisia. Since first you need to say the words of oath」

「Well then, teach me that too」

And so, lively conversation unfolded between Aisia and Celia with Rio interposed between them.

「You girls, I wonder if we can end this as fast as possible since I've got to prepare the dinner. Hahaha.....」

Rio made that request with a humble voice as he smiled wearily, maybe because he had a hard time of dousing their excitement with cold water.

But, whether those girls heard his request or not, they're not showing any compromise and keep pulling Rio's arms as it is. Eventually, the lesson about marriage is ended nearly one hour later.

# Chapter 183.5: What If?

*TN :This is an “If” story of what will happen if Miharuru isn’t metastasized to another world.*

## Part 1

\*\*\*\*\*

This is a short side story unrelated to the main story.

On a certain day, one week after the spring’s entrance ceremony.

Amakawa Haruto had just become a second year student. He entered the prep school in the city where he spent his childhood, reunited with his childhood friend, and now is enjoying his springtime of youth.

Haruto was currently living alone by renting a 1LDK apartment close to his school. Since he returned late from his parents’ home and even later to bed, his fatigue accumulated. Thus he would fall into a deeper sleep than the usual.

The time is 11 AM.

「Suu~」

Haruto was sleeping on his bed while raising calm breaths. And then――、

「Suu~, suu~」

A girl who was sleeping while her body was glued to Haruto also raised similar calm breaths. The girl had a beautiful and long pink colored hair that was for some reason wearing a formal suit.

「Nnh.....」

Haruto turned around lightly and then he noticed that someone was sleeping right beside him.

(..... Mii-chan ? )

The half-asleep Haruto thoughtlessly mistook that the girl who slept beside



him was Miharuru. Which then reminded him that today Miharuru said that she'll be bringing along lecturer Celia who was coming from a foreign country, to the high school where Haruto is attending to along with Endou Suzune[i], the elementary school girl who lived close by after the afternoon. She was preparing lunch boxes with everyone since they'll have flower viewing after noon.

When he thought calmly about it, there's no way Miharuru can do such bold action like slipping into his futon but, Haruto who was being attacked by drowsiness didn't feel any discomfort.

But, then, the entrance door opened with a "kacha".

(..... EH ? )

Haruto gradually felt the out of sense feeling in his apartment. Miharuru was the only one who had a duplicate key for this room. He already told her beforehand to come since he might sleep till the end of today if he was left alone.

*"Thus, the one who opened the door right now is Miharuru. Then, who's the one who is currently sleeping on my side."*

When Haruto thought so far with his dulled train of thought—,

「..... Are you still sleeping, Haru-kun ? 」

Miharuru timidly entered his room. With Suzune and Celia following after her from behind. Celia and Suzune looked around the room with puzzled expressions and muttering 「There's presence of a spirit ? 」 at each other.

「Mii—Chan ? 」

As expected, Haruto instantly got up from his futon as his thought snapped awake.

「Ah, did I just wake you ? I'm so..... rry ? 」

## Part 2

Though she showed an apologetic face, when she found out the silhouette of another person aside from Haruto in the dimly lit room, her body became rigid.

「..... Hey, who-is-that-girl ? 」

Celia pointed at the girl who slept beside Rio while asking that question timidly.

「So, I shall turn on the light」

Suzune pressed the lighting switch placed beside the door in panic. Thereupon, light shined upon the room. Even the figure of the girl who was currently sleeping soundly on Haruto's side was clearly exposed.

「Suu~, suu~」

And in the silence, the calm sleeping sounds of the girl resounded inside the room.

「.....」

The four people except for one girl were completely stunned. Thereupon——、

「Nnh.....」

The girl woke up. She rubbed her drowsy eyes as she slowly rose from the futon. Following that, the girl suddenly embraced Haruto.

「!!!! ! ? 」

「..... W-WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS PLACE ! 「WHAT JUST HAPPENED ! 」

Miharu, Celia and Suzune were united as one and wished for him to explain the situation.

「Eh, no, EEEH ! ? 」

Haruto himself was confused. “ *I'm sure that I went to sleep alone last night, why is an unfamiliar girl suddenly sleeping beside me though?.*”

「I'll be together with Haruto after this. In this place」

The girl suddenly made such a bold declaration to the other four while tightly embracing Haruto.

「Y-YOU CAN'T ! 」

Miharu and Suzune shouted at the same time.

「..... Hey, where's your home, are you living around this area ? 」

Celia's unexpectedly kept her cool and asked the girl with a dubious tone.

「Here. I'll work diligently to pay the rent」

**Part 3**

The girl replied while looking up to Haruto's face.

「EH, That's.....」

Haruto's head was still short circuited due to the too absurd development.

Her appearance is around Haruto's age but, he thought she might be older since she wore such a formal suit.

But, he didn't understand the situation. He's not even sure whether he could understand the situation. But, he should say something. As expected, His reply was——

[i] [TL : Endou Suzune = Latifa]